

Cyclus Of Reinvention

Negotiating unknown territory. The sensation of each interaction gradually eroding what has already been established. The brutal necessity of having to be unmade, before being reassembled.

Our lives are constantly in flux, moving, changing, disconnecting, recreating. This process becomes starkly conspicuous when we find ourselves negotiating a new environment. *Cyclus Of Reinvention* was devised as a response to this while taking part in a residency in Enschede, The Netherlands, in collaboration with fellow artist in residence, UK based Shaun Stamp, as we experienced first-hand, the feeling of dislocation and isolation that derives, both from having no knowledge of the potential of one's surroundings, and also from being an unknown quantity to local residents.

At the commencement of the residency, arriving knowing no one, and having to ascertain for ourselves the lie of the land, we relied on each other for information and guidance. Our early discussions revolved around the notion of "the stranger". We viewed this phenomenon in terms of our personal difficulties at that time, and, by extension, the more encompassing inherent struggles, physical and psychological, of migration. Our work development reflected this dialogue.

Our collaborative work took the form of two parts, or stages. The first stage was performative, consisting of a life sized figure sculpture made of wire and paper, deliberately featureless, representing an anonymous person. Someone who is in essence a blank page. The figure was mounted, suspended from the ceiling using transparent thread, in a cramped, dark, timber lined, cupboard-like space, chosen for its claustrophobic properties. From above, black oil slowly dripped over the head of the figure, staining the paper it was made of, and creating a large abstract stain on a circular canvas lying on the floor. The figure thus encumbered had a, somewhat gratuitous, pitiful quality, appearing melodramatically as a helpless sufferer.

In the second stage of the work, the parts of the sculpture, now stained with oil, the canvas and the vessel that had contained the oil, were disassembled and displayed separated out, in a spacious, airy gallery space. This acted as a metaphor for the dismantling of the lifestyle and mode of a past existence, to make way for reinvention in accordance with a new environment. A process which is simultaneously arduous, and enlightening.