



EXCHANGE RADICAL MOMENTS!

Live Art Festival

9.9.2011 – Selin Kocagöncü – SK Vending Machine: Stockholm

<http://11moments.org/selin-kocagoncu-trca/>

Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival

INTERVIEW #9: Today we meet with Selin Kocagöncü, an artist from Istanbul, Turkey. She will present her work SK Vending Machine in Stockholm as her contribution to Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival. Hi Selin, where are you at the moment?

Selin Kocagöncü

Hi! I'm at home in Istanbul.

Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival

Are you smiling?

Selin Kocagöncü

Now I am! :-)

Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival

Can you summarize in one sentence what your project is about?

Selin Kocagöncü

It's about creating a discernibly innocuous yet unfamiliar presence as part to an exchange, aiming to cause its participants to gauge the validity of their own fear and suspicion of the unfamiliar.

Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival

How do people react? Are they confused? Which kind of communication takes place?

Selin Kocagöncü

No, there never is confusion, really not. There's plenty of hesitation, though. People tend to get in contact with me after they resolve their hesitation, and enter with a conviction.

Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival

For all the people who haven't heard about your performance before: In your performance people have to do something that makes you smile, and if they succeed they get something to drink. In Stockholm it will be glögg, correct?



EXCHANGE RADICAL MOMENTS!

Live Art Festival

Selin Kocagöncü

Haha, you make it sound like a contest! They need to make me smile, yes, but that's a very easy thing to accomplish :-). And, yes, it'll be glögg in Stockholm

Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival

What happens then? What are you talking about with the people? What can visitors expect?

Selin Kocagöncü

If the visitor and I are at a distance, they can expect from me whatever they expect from street vendors: I'll be minding my own business, but will engage if we establish eye contact. The conversation itself is driven by the participant. There tend to be several questions inquiring into the motivation behind the piece.

Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival

You have performed your work in several cities worldwide. Are people reacting different in the various countries and cities?

Selin Kocagöncü

That was the expectation when the piece was first being developed, In reality I've noticed that there weren't any significant differences in people's reactions. Then again, that might be because the cities so far were all more or less westernized.

Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival

Did you experience some radical moments with it? And how do you define "radical" for yourself?

Selin Kocagöncü

I think radical is about being uncommon and also being capable of engendering change. Also starting to think these days that a radical moment can only be discerned retrospectively, by tracing an effect back in time. In "SK Vending Machine" I'm in a mediator-like role and in performance, which unfortunately makes it difficult for me to experience any radical moments myself.

Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival

Have you ever experienced a moment, when time stood still and a single moment seemed to be endless? When was the last time that you had an experience like that and what was it about?



EXCHANGE RADICAL MOMENTS!

Live Art Festival

Selin Kocagöncü

Yeah, it happens, but not as frequently as I'd like it to. I experience it with people especially – as times of a deep serenity of feeling in tune with one another. The last time however was at my summerhouse a week ago. I was looking down to the sea from a mountain trail in new moon. I live in Istanbul, a teeming metropolis, which is probably the reason why I experience most of such singular moments with other people. With other people it is more like two mirrors facing each other, while with the view last week it was pure captivation.

Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival

Thank you for sharing this moment with us. Is there a bottom line in all of your performances? What is important for you?

Selin Kocagöncü

I am constantly working out how to live authentically while being with others. This is personal, and I think it translates into form by taking on communication as a theme.

Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival

Can people find online information about your project?

Selin Kocagöncü

My website is offline, but I should be putting a "SK Vending Machine documentation" this week on my blog at skarchive.wordpress.com

Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival

Thank you for the interview and good luck in Stockholm!

Selin Kocagöncü

This was a lot of fun, thank you!