

The future

When I started this project, I intended it to be a try-out. A research for another suit. For a long walk in a new three piece walking suit.

In the last two months I thought about and worked on the preparations for this next step.

Questions that came up are:

Do I need a special design?

What is the relationship with other travellers who kept a diary while travelling? (think f.e. Chatwin, Basho, Louis Stevenson, Leigh Fermor).

When the suit becomes my world, my home, when I live in it every day, how do I manoeuvre through the world? How do I navigate? Where do I want to go? What does my instinct tell me? My inner compass?

I applied for and was selected as one of 18 projects for the Nomadic Village 2013 and this summer I will travel slowly from Amsterdam to Marseille, walking approximately 50% of the distance. I will wear a new suit and fill it with new thoughts and encounters but this time it will be my main focus for 24 hours a day and it will be like a travel diary. In the Nomadic Village it will be my uniform and I will wear it in the Memory Shop I'll be constructing there, like the Memory Shop I ran in Weimar in 2012, the project which led to the suit project: it consisted of me asking people to bring me a cloth item with a pocket and a memory. I would sew their memory in somebody else's pocket and somebody else's memory in their pockets. The project aims at distributing as many memories in pockets around the world as possible. I'll be working on a website in the coming months.

I applied for (no answer yet) a walking project in Sweden, a one month residency with a focus on communal walking & communication. I proposed to wear a three piece walking suit and cut pieces out of the suit and exchange them with similarly shaped pieces of clothing from other people's outfits. I will sew "my" piece in the hole in their cloth item and I will sew "their" piece in the hole in my suit. Eventually my whole suit will consist of pieces of clothing from other people and my original suit will be distributed among hundreds of people who walked and talked with me.

I researched fashion designers and found a very nice interview with a German designer working in Paris, Lutz Huelle, who said some things about clothing I very much identified with. Only after I read the interview and looked at his designs online I saw his collection for 2011. It was called "Soft armour". I haven't contacted him yet but will soon to see if he would be interested in designing a suit for me.

I'm not sure how this ties in and if it really has to do with the suit or if it is more connected to the walking, but I'm quite interested in a research group in Osnabrück at the Institute of Cognitive Science that is working on the "feelSpace belt", *"a novel sensory augmentation device that projects the direction of the magnetic north onto the wearer's waist"*. I contacted them to ask if I could be of help in any way in their research by wearing the belt during my walks.

I made an appointment with a tattoo artist in Amsterdam to have “soft armour” tattooed on the back of my left shoulder.

Until now

I still like the QR code I embroidered. Although a limited amount of people were able to scan it, it made clear that there was something special about my suit and it opened up conversations while wandering around in the real world.

I’m quite happy about my decision to join Facebook and use it as a platform to distribute my images and thoughts. I made a new drawing and a photo of me in the suit every day, didn’t skip one day and put them on Facebook and on my weblog before 7 every morning. I had a lot of meetings online.

I think my presentation is what I showed on the internet. If I would be asked to present the project in a show right now, I would hang my suit from a coatstand (like I did on March 1st) and have a monitor next to it with a slideshow of the images of me in my suit every day everywhere. Very clean: 3 hooks on the wall for the three cloth items and a flatscreen next to it with the images.

Links

interview Lutz: <http://lutzarchives.wordpress.com/2012/01/01/katrin-kruse-interviews-lutz-zoo-magazine/>

feelSpace belt: <http://feelspace.cogsci.uni-osnabrueck.de/#publications>

pocket memory: http://moniqueinweimar.blogspot.be/2012_01_01_archive.html

nomadic village: <http://nomadic.cd/>