

Department  
of  
Haunting

Amsterdam, the 10th of December 2007

[www.faculty.cc](http://www.faculty.cc)

Dear Marko,

We reply to your invitation to the Faculty of Invisibility as the Department of Reading, the Department of Haunting and the Department of Practice.

We understand the challenge of the final project of de Appel participants to consist in its taking place, as the location of the project suggests, within the predominant discourse on art in public space in the Netherlands and in the in-escapability of the functioning of our work as a representation, an intervention, a suggestion or an example contributing to this debate within a representational framework.

Though the Faculty of Invisibility consists of the practices of its departments, it neither aims at a theoretical discourse (The Department of Reading) nor at creating a performative insertion into an institutional structure (The Department of Practice), which could adequately meet these challenges. Furthermore the Faculty of Invisibility does not consist of a continuity of its members, departments or events in which one chapter follows another but, quiet the opposite, it establishes itself again and again.

We believe that it is within the very place that the Department of Haunting is, that the Faculty will establish itself again. Having to assume another identity in order not to have to appear, the Department of Haunting inhabits the Department of Reading and the Department of Practice as a technique rather than a figure. Unlike the movement of getting somewhere, inhabitation is the time of remaining, which makes a space a place. The notion of inhabitation as we find it within the Department of Haunting suspends the necessity of presence or participation - in particular with regard to the concept of public space.

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To this end today we have been drafting the Machine of the Department of Haunting.

Herewith, other than submitting our cv's which could meet your approval or disapproval, we would like to initiate a communication replacing a discourse opposing the representational.

A communication which will evolve from here towards – while it will fold backwards from its future into – the Faculty's (dis)appearance within the framework of your final project in May 2008.

The mode of the again and again corresponds to the figure of the ghost, which, not granted its historical embedding, has to appear again and again. Neither the one haunting nor the one haunted are free but endure each others involuntary inhabitation. The ghost's demand for redemption is the demand to be restored within the order of time. Out of time, out of history it is the insisting gesture of appearance (a technique, rather than a figure) through which that which can not achieve a consistent form arrives.

The causality of an invitation is historically embedded – it is due to their past that personas are counted and acknowledged within the act of inviting.

The next meeting of the Faculty of Invisibility in the Department of Haunting will welcome those people, their thoughts and practices, who have already entered our thoughts, whose thoughts we have already entered and who through their unintentional involvement have lead towards this event.

Herewith we would like to invite you, to attend this meeting in Leidse Rijn, het Gebouw, in May 2008.

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At the same time we believe the Machine of the Department of Haunting is to create a passage through which what cannot achieve a consistent form of appearance can arrive (a technique rather than a figure).

Therefore we suggest to unfold the complication of the invitation. Reversing the historic logic of the invitation, we will attempt to insert the public in reverse into an event in the past through a gesture of daily insistence.

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The Department of Reading, the Department of Practice and the Department of Haunting propose to subsequently create 7000 printed invitations, which, distributed to 1000 addressees sent at seven different points in the future following the event will invite backwards in slightly altered manners into an event which has already taken place. Thus subtracting the freedom an invitation contains, namely the choice to attend or to not attend, we hope that discarding the space a public could share we might effect the time that a public was bound to share. Through the daily reminder, the daily insistence and daily annoyance of being invited to something already left unattended, we hope to subsume a public which acknowledges an event in the past as becoming part of their presence.

We are looking towards you.

The Department of Haunting,  
The Department of Reading,  
The Department of Practice  
—  
The Faculty of Invisibility