

Invitation

Het Blauwe Huis

Amsterdam, March 8 2007

Dear Igor Dobricic,

Herewith I would like to invite you to become an inhabitant of The Blue House (Het Blauwe Huis). The Blue House is established as a housing association for the mind, which aims to function as a cultural refuge for IJburg, for the city of Amsterdam, but moreover as a model for the development of new communities anywhere.

The Blue House will look into how every urban environment differs from the way people use it, to how it is intended to function by those who plan it or have power to implement housing and regeneration schemes. If one wants to discover the heterogeneity of an area then perhaps one should seek out its every day activities and experience the city's energies, oscillations and atmospheres, which are intuitively felt. These constitute the daily life of an area and form the basis of a cultural tissue. This tissue is the whole of situations that take place, what is experienced and the narrations that emerge. It is important to enlarge the level of participation in the public domain, so that the inhabitants can actively start to use this. The Blue House wants to function like a catalyst for an accelerated formulation of history in IJburg, by describing and simultaneously intervening in everyday life in this area.

Your work as an individual artist as well as cultural producer, especially the project Almost Real, seems to me of interest for The Blue Houses position as a 'guest house'. From this position The Blue House likes to research into the notion of hospitality within the borders of Europe. Especially seen in the light of a striking paradox of our time: capital, goods and services are assumed to be able to move as freely as possible, while human freedom of movement is subject to more and more constraints. As Jacques Derrida wrote: "Hospitality is culture itself and not simply one ethic amongst others. Insofar as it has to do with the ethos, that is, the residence, one's at-home, the familiar place of dwelling, as much as the manner of being there, the manner in which we relate to ourselves and to others, to others as our own or as foreigners, ethics is hospitality; ethics is entirely coextensive with the experience of hospitality, whichever way one expands or limits that." The very precondition of hospitality may require that, in some ways, both the host and the guest accept, in different ways, the uncomfortable and sometimes painful possibility of being changed.

As a member of the housing association for the mind you become part of The Blue House. Each member is entitled to a 6-month stay to take in parts as they want (over the period of the houses 4-year existence), but to be negotiated with the project manager up front. In return you collaborate on the project 'Hospitality' which will question the notion of communities, their organization, borders and migration and share your thinking with the community of IJburg as well as the community of co-inhabitants and the larger world through writing, presentations, interventions and so on. The Blue House will closely collaborate with you on developing this project and facilitates the project's needs by becoming a guest itself within different cultural structures in order to both question and finance its development. Members are also entitled to send a printed manifesto from the house to the 5.000 addresses (both national and international) in our database and to use The Blue House website to communicate their research.

We made a time slot reservation for your participation in the period 2007 and 2008. To organize your stay in The Blue House you can contact the project manager (Irene den Hartoog, info@blauwehuis.org). Before the start of this stay you will receive research information on the area, as well as referential texts and information on the other inhabitants of The Blue House. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me.

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I am looking forward to welcome you in The Blue House.

Warm regards,

Jeanne van Heeswijk
Initiator of The Blue House

Het

Blauwe

Huis