

Dear Marie,

Like many of your predecessors you live to get through to a place deep in our mortal bodies, i.e. the place of the heart.

For indeed, as a Chinese proverb puts it, we can collect a lot of energy “when the heart is big and empty”. The heart big and empty! Having reached that, you are beyond vulnerability, even if it were just for a fleeting moment, enabling you to reveal forces that have always been there but so often remain hidden.

The thing that surprises me immensely and doesn't stop to intrigue me is the way in which you allow the eternal sinusoid movement of uncertainty to lead its own life, and in doing so twirling the order of consent like an unstoppable whirlwind.

It seems to me that nature and set-up in your work aren't trics but rather a combination of fragility and inobtrusive formality. As was the case just a little while ago during your performance; a wonderful example of how a work's origin lies in the borderland of reality where thinking, feeling, experiencing and observing try to get near to one another beyond the point of no return.

Yes, Marie, performances are acts of great loneliness, where you are alone with yourself. And you succeed because you know, better than anyone else, that nature gives and takes or, in other words, for a full hour you managed to be nature yourself. Few in the visual arts can match that.

Dear Marie, I'm reading a book , a novel, “La possibilité d'une île” . And strangely enough, at the top of page 10 which is otherwise empty, there is one sentence. With your work you are gradually reaching the ground of that sentence and that page where together with Michel Houellebecq you are entitled to ask the question: Qui parmi vous, mérite la vie éternelle? (Who among you deserves to live forever?)

Or, in other words, isn't it an extraordinary mental luxury, the artist's luxury, that you, Marie, are still allowed to speak when so many others have already been silenced.

Roland Patteeuw, Friday 23 September 2005. Introduction for the show AVEN at Seppenshuis Zoersel.