

HOUSE

the idea arose during a Monday morning mass in the Chapel of the Holy Presence at the beguinage of Turnhout, a chapel in white and blue, with a tiled floor and saints' figures in niches as well as a glass coffin containing a wax image of Saint Colomba a beguine's simple devotion was responsible for this non-architecture with 'lifelike' figures which to a puzzled present-day man would appear rather kitschy

the installation also refers to a figurine which Marie Julia Bollansée sculpted 'a long, long time ago' (1985) a girl in a small transparent room, both hands pressed to her heart the artist recovered the floor tiles from the farm where her family lived for four generations the artist insisted on setting up the installation near the big box tree the odour of this box tree taking her back to her childhood the pose during the performance is that of Botticelli's Venus as the winds blow her along from the sea on a shell when looking at this painting one is under the impression of hearing music

Anna Harding (curator, London) said about the BLUE of earlier performances (BODI, printing the wall 1999 and SURVIVALKnIT 2000) that it reminded her of the 'pagan' Celtic Queen Boadicea when she led her tribe, the Iceni, in a rebellion against the Romans she daubed her body with blue dye from the woad so as to gain wings during battle but as the Iceni were defeated Boadicea and her daughters drained the poisoned cup rather than to submit to the Romans

the BLUE of the sea and the sky and earth (Yuri Gagarin: 'seen from space, the earth is blue') BLUE because of the covering and protection BLUE for freedom of spirit

the reading of Hadewych's visions a poet and writer who is said to have been a beguine or at least a religious and independent woman was one of the reasons for this performance seeking out the field of tension between physical awareness and spiritual sensitivity

the humming is a non-singing a monotonous song with no words an entirely natural way to arouse a slight trance an exercise to walk on the edge of the spiritual twilight zone