

DANA SEDEROWSKY

*All this for what*

Galleri 21 Malmö 10/9 – 2/10 2016

The question that Dana Sederowsky asks the visitor in her textual exhibition at Galleri 21 is not just rhetorical but is filled with a deep ritual importance for the artist herself. All this work for what? All this art. All this life.

The question – or the statement – is formulated in handwritten text on 1467 sheets of white A4 paper and is a part of the project *Text Walls* that Sederowsky initiated in 2013 aiming to explore monomaniacal writing. The large sheets have been taped to the walls so that they cover the wall space from floor to ceiling in three of the gallery's four rooms.

The perfect, visual composition combined with the meaningless repetition of a phrase, a gesture or an expression has become Sederowsky's trademark and it conjures notions of madness, compulsive repetitiveness and pathological control issues. It also evokes an aesthetic longing for perfection bordering on the obsessive. Behind the compulsive repetitiveness there is always a hint of deeper incentives. Perhaps the writing is a way to remedy a feeling of meaninglessness, perhaps it is a tool with which to replace self doubt with grandeur. Perhaps it is a way to forget the self. The note is a part of the written word and the literary tradition that simultaneously is banal and vital, loving and domineering. In Sederowsky's writings these functions are fused into a completely new artistic expression.

As in all of Sederowsky's texts, installations and video monologues the phrase showcased at Galleri 21 is carefully chosen. It is both highly value loaded and also worn down to the edge of banality in order to be transformed and change its meaning when, as is done here, it is duplicated for what could be an eternity.

In both its parts and as a whole the project can be viewed as an attempt to challenge and understand eternity, but also as a process of mourning where the monotonously repeated ritual executed on a given time every day can be likened to a process of introspection – like a prayer or a meditative mantra. From having started in a small scale Sederowsky has come to push the boundaries of her own physical and psychical endurance, working with more and more extensive writings in order to challenge her own limits and explore what happens if she endures the monotony.

The longest writing to date took place during Sederowsky's solo exhibition at Göteborgs Konsthall in 2015 when during one month, at given times and in public, she repeatedly wrote the phrases "monotony is a virtue, repetition is a strength, practise makes progress" with a marker pen directly at the 10 x 6 meters long wall.

In the inner room of the gallery the video performance work *Head* (2012) rumbles, a 15 minutes long act of endurance. This work also aims at questioning monotony and human endeavour under pressure and is as always performed by the artist herself.

Gabriella Håkansson

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