doi:10.32020/ArtandDoc/33/2025/15

SUMMARY

Józef BURY

Defenestration and Flight Training or French Defenestrations

The text and charts used in the performances were presented earlier at**:** PAIR02, International Performance Event, 2007, Lahti, Finland; Electrobolochoc Festival, 2008, Barjols, France; Audio Art Festival 2009, Bunkier Sztuki Gallery, Krakow, Poland; Infr'Action Paris Festival, 2010, Institut Suédois in Paris.

Performance based on extensive research work to identify the most important political defenestrations throughout the history of western civilization. Examples, such as the defenestration of Queen Jezebel described in the Second Book of Kings, to the defenestrations of political journalists in Russia and in the United States in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, are illustrated with works of art, photographs and press articles, presented as a video-slideshow. The aim of this work is to establish a history of Western defenestration and to include in it a series of 'anonymous' defenestrations of undocumented migrants that appeared in French political history between 2007 and 2009. Following this integration, a new history of defenestrations is presented during the performance in the form of PowerPoint presentation projected at the bottom of the stage on which the action takes place. Throughout the performance, a voiceover completes the narrative with a monotonous commentary providing details about the examples presented in the slideshow.

The action in itself consists of a series of risky physical exercises, supposed to develop the ability to fly. Most exercises involve jumping or projecting oneself in different ways in the air and thus trying to 'fly' as long as possible. However, as the exercises continue to repeat at a sustained tempo, the tired body instead becomes heavier and incapable not only of flying but also of continuing the exercises in a coordinated manner. The instructions for performing successive exercises are included in the video-slideshow and the spectators are invited to practice them, on the spot or at home.