



Photo by Nel Acosta Bravo, Venezuela, 2015

# Pressing Times

- a performative mobileé -

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***FIELDS OF VISION: Art and  
Performance Festival 2017***

## *Contact details*

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## *Artist BIO*

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Marcel Sparmann is a performance artist born in Gera, Germany. He studied Theatre and Performance Art at the University of Hildesheim and Environmental Art at Glasgow School of Art. His specific interest reaches across the media spectrums and includes influences from dance, spatial based art, video and installation. He works as an artist and guest teacher in solo and collaborative projects all over Europe and furthermore in North- and Southamerica, USA and Asia. His approach has led him to develop a specific understanding for shared spaces and situations which could be seen as ephemeral intersections between political, philosophical and social based questions. Lately he has been holding a guest teaching position at Ernst – Busch Hochschule für Schauspiel und Regie in Berlin and the University of Cologne.

## *Artist Statement*

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I consider myself as a visual artist, experienced in theatre, dance, video art, installation and performance art. That means my understanding and awareness of communication, exchanging and sharing is image and action based. I don't trust verbal language we are used to control and manipulate, but I like to use the complex construction of language to transform these aspects to artistical expressions. Therefore I'm looking for a direct encounter which is open enough to touch a certain subject first on an emotional and then on an abstract or intellectual level.

My artistic interest focuses mainly on the creation of intense situations, compressed and intimate spaces which can be then used as a display. I'm looking for a visual and action based language which embodies audience, the aspect of time and non-time and the shared space. Especially the space becomes an emotional environment which contains common memory and the navigation in between them.

I'm searching for simplicity of images and actions which carry a pure aesthetic and special temperature, comparable with natural phenomenon which I perceived as a result from a more natural approach.

## *Pressing times*

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For me, the state of diffusion with its consequence of pressure and counter pressure, is one of the most natural phenomena, but also a strong indicator of our actuality. We are constantly surrounded and overwhelmed by the simultaneity of incidents on a bigger (social) or smaller (private) scale. And the moment an „other“ reality breaks in, the moment the balance between the forces is questioned, we find ourselves in the unknown and our carefully crafted environment is in danger to collapse.

So it feels unavoidable that my next performances are attempts to find new performative strategies to respond to these overwhelming situations that broke in: the most recent and dramatic situation of the post fact times along with xenophobia, homophobia, racism, the refugee situation in Europe and Germany or the unbearable situation in Venezuela at the moment and my position as a witness.

Therefore this performance and the following are about the oscillating meaning of "casa" (home/house) and "caza" (hunt). This wordplay in its simplicity, but also reversed meaning became the twisting point. The difference between "casa" and "caza" is one letter and in the pronunciation hardly detectable, but has in its real life consequence, a massive impact. How does it feel to live in a hunted house, to exist in an environment which hunts you, which transforms your open door to a security gate? How can we communicate this thin border?

Therefore I believe utterance is participation and if words are failing, the body becomes text, and objects, places, and even the audience will be compact in intense situations which is hopefully more participative as just the fact of observing what's going on.

## *Documentation*

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portfolio: <http://tinyurl.com/Portfolio-Selection-2016>

website: <http://marcelsparmann.com>

video: [http://www.marcelsparmann.com/video\\_foodfight13.html](http://www.marcelsparmann.com/video_foodfight13.html)

[http://www.marcelsparmann.com/video\\_therewillbefeathers12.html](http://www.marcelsparmann.com/video_therewillbefeathers12.html)