

urban occupation : ACTION

experiment : instant occupation

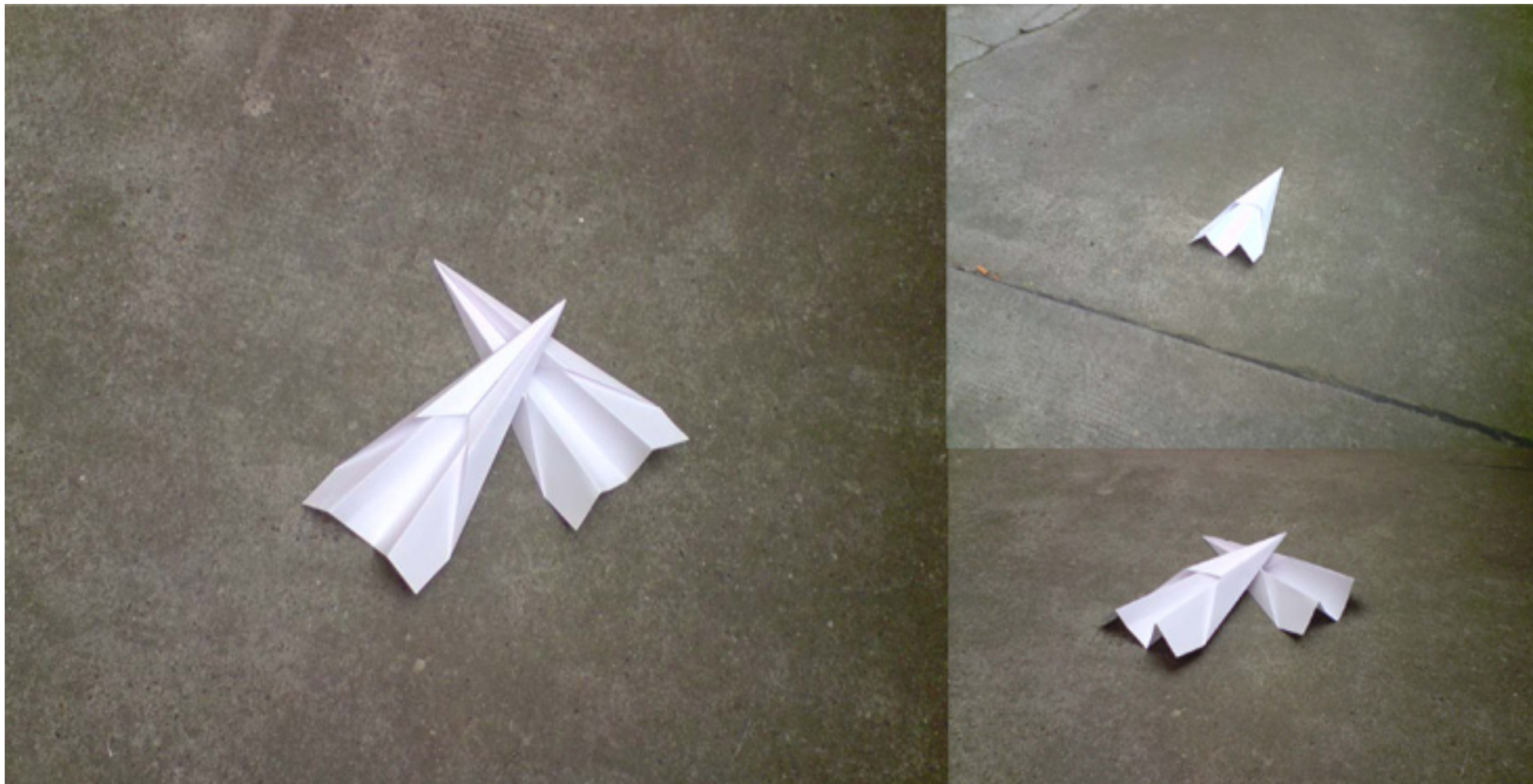


Image: Paper aeroplanes on the ground after being thrown at the public.

Source: Own photos.

authors / actors / participants:

There is no 'act' as such, regarding this experiment, and therefore: no actors, only participants. The participants of the experiment will be myself and various member of the public.

title: The Paper Chase!

location: Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz

date: may 1, 2009

manifesto:

The people of the 21st century have become isolated. Citizens form fragments of society. Rather than observing themselves as a whole. People can go about their daily business and never have to confront a single soul. They make use of services: Shopkeepers, Waiting staff, taxi drivers and bus drivers etc. in order to facilitate their needs instead of observing these services as other human beings who can be talked to and interacted with. There are not many reasons for someone to actively engage with someone else in our modern society.

I intend to give people a reason to engage with me, by giving them a decision. Through the simple use of paper aeroplanes, I shall attempt to acknowledge my fellow citizens through the act of throwing a plane in their direction. I will then attempt to encourage, through gesture, to return my acknowledgement. Effectively, the decision will be in their hands: Will they pick the aeroplane up and throw it back? Will they walk away with the plane? Or will they just ignore it?

techniques / tools: Multiple paper aeroplanes that will be used to target different members of the public. In an attempted to gauge their reactions.

action: Directing the paper aeroplanes towards various members of the public in an attempt to invoke a reaction. Will they direct it back? Will they pick it up and walk away? Or will they simply ignore it? The hope is that my action will encourage some kind of response from random members of the public.

actual outcome:

The experiment was not as successful as previously hoped. The act of throwing a paper plane at someone proved to be slightly more aggressive, than playful. It would seem that people were too reluctant to participate due to the puzzling nature of the act. Out of all the people involved in the experiment, only one threw the plane back and two took the plane away. The majority of participants ignored the act altogether.

In order to make the experiment more successful - A less aggressive approach must be used. By approaching members of the public and offering them to take a paper aeroplane - more people may be inclined to participate and respond. It is also makes it easier to record what they're next action will be with regards to the aeroplane. They could throw it, keep it or maybe even discard it altogether.

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sketch: Diagrammatical Photomontage indicating the action of throwing paper aeroplanes at a member of the public.
Source: Own Photomontage.



Image: Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz location.
Source: <http://maps.live.com/> 03/05/2009

bibliography:

<http://maps.live.com/> 03/05/2009