

# daniel spoerri

## anecdoted topography of chance

1 Daniel Spoerri (1930-...) well known for his work, "tableaux de piege" (also known as "snare paintings"). Daniel Spoerri was an important part of the art nouveau-realism movement. The movement was representative for making the daily reality into art, exactly what Spoerri was doing. In 1963 he became famous with his Menus-pieges. For twelve days Spoerri opened a restaurant in the "J" gallery in Paris. The menus were varied from exotic food till ordinary bread. The serving team consisted out of art-critics. After every meal, when the visitors just finished their food, he would say that they shouldn't move until he glued everything on the table-top. Then he took the table and turned it for 90 degrees and hung it on the wall. The meal became a snare painting. Later, in 1968, he opened a restaurant in Dusseldorf with the same system.

2 The idea for this topography of chance was captured on magnetic tape during the course of a conversation between Robert Filiou and Daniel Spoerri in October 1961.  
DS: Here on the wall, the snare-paintings... everything is spectacular and visible to the maximum, you see bread, and all that, but in the order, in the outline, it would be completely different... well, like the subconscious and the conscious, you know, you'll see only numbers, nothing at, all, and you will read... a novel... before a topo... a topographic map of chance. But it'll be difficult. I think that for the moment I will... I'm going to cover the table with tracing paper to begin with, and I'm going to pretend that I've forgotten all about it, until the day I say all right, here goes, and after I make exactly... after I make... from that tracing paper another tracing paper, precise, exact, I'm going to almost paint it, you know, so that it'll be almost like a picture, but a technical picture, without any trace of individuality.  
RF: Yes yes.  
DS: With the text nearby, so that people will be able to say: "Ah no. 13, the circle that's Jaffa Gold cucumber pickles..."  
RF: Ha-ha.  
DS: "... Found at..." I think it will be interesting to give both.  
RF: Yes yes.  
DS: Because at the moment it seems to me... it is the most challenging thing I'm able to do at the moment... the things on the wall are too easy for me now.

3 The first edition, in french, "Topographie Anecdotee du Hasard" was published in 1962 by editions Galerie Lawrence and written by Daniel Spoerri with additions of Robert Filiou. Further editions were published in english, "An Anecdoted Topography of Chance" translated by Emmett Williams with sketched pen and ink illustrations by Roland Topor. And in 1970 the german version was published, "Anekdoten zu einer Topographie des Zufalls", translated by Diter Rot (also known as Dieter Roth).

1. Daniel Spoerri
2. the concept
3. with help from...

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