Karmen Franinovic

Since I started my studies and also that I moved from my country made me see Amsterdam with new eyes. A lot of things are new and many impressions all the time. It made almost me an outsider of society. More an observer. I think it's interesting to observe the behavior of people, especially tourists in the centre of Amsterdam. Completely lost in the city stress, with bikes, trams, cars, junkies and hookers. People don't know how to behave when they come to new places. Maybe because most of them are not used to have a fast tram or an angry biker ringing the bell when they cross a street. Sometimes it is good to get relief from the urban city stress and all the noises around. Just say STOP! To think about what is going on around us. Take a step back and observe the society and not letting the society have too much control over you. It will only cause problems. And if you just turn a blind eye to all the problems it just get more. Next time it might not be a fast tram or some angry belling biker in your way.

Karmen Franinovic is an Architecture and interactive designer, which have been active with different projects, that has been dealing with subtraction in society. She wants to take away the stress in the urban flow. Giving the people a relief from all noises which nobody even notice when they are in the middle of it. The noise which is giving a stressful atmosphere.

Recycle Soundscapes is one of her projects where she placed boxes at squares in different cities. A box with a sonic bowl on it, where you can scratch out sounds which are ment to give people a relived feeling from all the other noises around. It is also possible to record sound like a memory from the past and it plays when the next person scratch the bowl. Recycled sound. It's many boxes placed out at the square and it's open for everyone to play, interact and asking questions to the artist.

I think its good that somebody brings up the thought of being active with something which is just not only personal. To give somebody something to think of while they are on the way somewhere. Its feels sometimes like people just want to stress through the city just to buy something and hurry home to use it. Not even thinking of what life could give you spontaneously on your way from one place to another. I find it interesting that Karmen refer to this work as architecture. It gives a physical feeling of being a landscape in the middle of all stress. Where people could come in to and interact with the artist and themselves.

Subtraction is important in the everyday life. Not to take everything for granted. What should happen that day when someone takes away for example the internet. Everyone would be in panic and not knowing how to deal with the situation. Today you can check your way to your new job via "Google earth" instead of taking the bike ride the day before. And maybe on your way you would discover a really nice place which would never be shown online. People think it's nice when everything goes faster because then you're saving time for something else, but for what? I think the only way to get richer in an area is to discover it your self. I think it is dangerous that it is just a click on the computer and then you have access to the world within a few seconds. Nowadays it is possible to live a life without even moving from the sofa. All you need is a phone and a computer. Or not even a phone when you've got Skype. This "perfect" world is not going to last forever although it is still going in a fast direction to make it as easy as possible.

Of course it is possible to live to die. But why?