

INTERMEZZO ATELIER III (2017)

Written down from memory (spoken text differs from written)

My name is Jozef Wouters, I am the scenographer of this space
and I just wanted to say that this space here is the centre
This is the reason why we are here
I mean literally: we would not be here if this open space was not in this building
When we were looking for an atelier to rent, one of the criteria was that it
needed to have a place where a hundred persons could all see more or less the
same thing

I've been spending most of the time designing this central space
But then it turned out that most of the piece was not happening in the centre
Turns out the centre is irrelevant
Birds, they say, always fly to the periphery

All buildings are predictions and all predictions are wrong.

When contemporary dance enters an industrial building, the floor becomes an
issue
And when we talk about floors we talk about wood
This building is completely made of stone but most of what we touch is wood

The first thing I did when I came into this space is cleaning
Cleaning is learning a space by heart

In two years time this place will be a day-care centre for kids
And on the street side will be apartments for families
They are already imagined
Those families
And those kids
They might not even be born yet
But they are already imagined

We have been imagining you guys the last few weeks
We would say things like: they will probably be standing there
Or: be careful Márcio because there might be people over there

This place used to be a factory for car parts
And before that it was a sausage factory
This whole neighbourhood used to be all about meat
And now it's about cars
Energy seems to be a topic here

The architect of this building is Turkish
And legend has it that he never came here

They say I do need a lot of words for someone who talks about space all the time
But one of the first things I did upon entering this place is take away all the signs

All the written things like “close this door please” and “don’t forget to flush the toilet”

Signs enter where architecture fails

But because of that I now have to tell you things like

There is a toilet over there

And there is a bar over there

The thing is we are supposed to meet each other in a minute on the first floor in the corner over there

And there are two ways to go upstairs

There is a stone staircase over there

And there is wooden one over here

After that we will go to the second floor

And the third

And then we will end on the fourth floor where the sleeping rooms are