



## **BAS JAN ADER IN SEARCH OF THE MIRACULOUS, 1975**

A CURATORIAL PROJECT BY Y8

A man in a very small sailing boat – ahead: the open sea. Below the significant caption: „In Search of the Miraculous“. It is the very last photograph of the Dutch concept artist Bas Jan Ader (1942 – 1975), taken by his wife on July 9, 1975 at Cape Cod, Massachusetts (USA), when setting out for his voyage into the unknown. Ader has planned on crossing the Atlantic Ocean, however he never reached his destination.

Printed on a curtain from gauze, the hazy photograph divides the room of Y8 in its midst. It is not possible to identify the screened, rastered motive viewed up close. Alike with a pointillist painting, the more the spectator is stepping back, the more the image content becomes accessible. Like that, paradoxically, being close to the image requires distance. The gauze unites and divides at the same moment. The printed subject bundles the attention within the room and turns the individual's process of envisioning into an experience of collective memory. At the same time, the gauze separates the visitors from each other although they consider themselves close. The spectator seems to be in close proximity to his work, while a sense of insurmountable separation arises - The experience of failure is a deeply subjective moment that cannot be communicated to the world.



The artist's project "In Search of the Miraculous" comprises of three parts. The first one includes eighteen black and white photographs, documenting a nocturnal walk through Los Angeles and captioned with fragments of the song "Searchin" (The Coasters) from 1957. Ader's idea of crossing the Atlantic Ocean in a petit sailing boat in order to continue his stroll in Amsterdam has been intended to be the central element of the performance. The three-part project was ought to be displayed at Groningen Museum at the end of the same year. About ten months after his departure, the empty wreck was washed ashore at the coast of Ireland. Bas Jan Ader's body was never to be found.

Ader grew up at the Dutch seaside. At the age of 19, he immigrated to the United States, L.A., where he continued his formerly interrupted studies in Art History. In his artistic work, he dealt perennial with failure and the handling with it. He particularly dealt quite challenging with gravity and other physical phenomena. He documented many of his activities with his camera in a direct and unpretentious manner. Ultimately, his work stayed ephemeral and enigmatic.

In 2000, the visual artists Benita-Immanuel Grosser established the space Y8 with the intention to build up a new context in between arts and yoga and put it up to discussion. Changing exhibitions transform the space and constantly ensure new perspectives while ritualized yoga practice defines principals and functions. Exhibition visits are possible before and after yoga sessions or after registration.

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*OCTOBER 5 – DECEMBER 5, 2015*

### **OPENING: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2015, 11 AM**

Welcome: Benita-Immanuel Grosser, Y8

Introduction: Dr. Brigitte Kölle, head of Galerie der Gegenwart, Hamburger Kunsthalle

Courtesy: Meliksetian | Briggs, California

*Followed up by: Soup and Sweets*

**Y8**

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