

THE FOREST OF SOULS AROUND THE BOZ



Forest of Souls installation at the Jack Shainman Gallery
(New York, 2009).

Six questions for a world cultural heritage art work

The Boz's tour in 80 years is a unique project initiated by the artist Julien Friedler. This is a participative art work open to anybody without any discrimination. The spirit of Boz aims at catching the on-the-spot soul of our current world. Its primary format consists in a questionnaire with 6 questions:

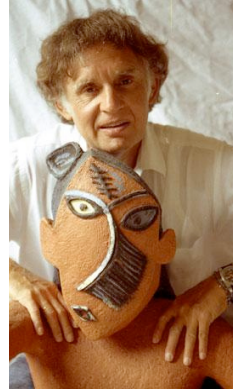
1. Does God exist?
2. How would you define this period?
3. How do you see the future?
4. Are you happy?
5. Is sexuality important for you?
6. Who am I?

These questions can seem common but they are all at the heart of our social constructions and at the crossroad of the development of our cultures. The team of the Spirit of Boz travels the world to disseminate and collect the filled questionnaires.

From Togo to Amazonia, through the United States, Indonesia, Rwanda, Argentina and Belgium, the forest of souls expands with new encounters and unexpected outcomes. It has become the joint of an artistic device and of a movement of art searchers. Initiated in 2006, it has introduced itself as the opposite way to conceive our timeframe: the boz's tour is indeed conceived for 80 years. It is not a 80 days' journey as proposed by Jules Verne or 80 hours as our contemporary travelers but truly 80 years. It is not our aim either to send this questionnaire to millions of web-users. It would be possible to reply to this questionnaire online but the direct encounters are preferred to virtual ones. The encounter of all, including those who have access to everything and those who have access to nothing. The answers to these questions are carefully preserved and will form the very substance and nature of the art work.

All questionnaires are indeed enclosed within crates, which are themselves piled up in columns, each of them materializing one tree. The multiplication of these trees will give birth to one forest: A FOREST OF SOULS. Very different from a fixed art work in a museum, the forest of souls is above all in a process of movement. A move towards the other and the self, an art work in process, a true laboratory of encounters. Rich of thousands of questionnaires, "Spirit of Boz - Association Julien Friedler for contemporary art - will reveal its first columns to the public in 2013/2014.

The forest of souls respects the timeframe suggested by the moment of encounters and builds itself throughout time. It is expected to build soon a world cultural heritage art work.



Julien Friedler

Julien Friedler was born in 1950 in Brussels. A philosopher and psychoanalyst before becoming poet and visual artist, he funded in the 1990's a unique artistic company: Spirit of Boz. Playing at the frontiers of aesthetics, social and sciences of dream, the "Boz" materialises itself through a panel of art works: texts, paintings, installations and performances made by the artist but also through the implementation of a participative creative programme: BE BOZ BE ART.

Spirit of Boz - Julien Friedler for Contemporary Art

An unique Association for artistic expression



Boz in the world

To support the «Forest of Souls» project, Julien Friedler founded Spirit of Boz - Association for Contemporary Art.

The association has a humanistic and artistic objective.

It is funded by the sale of Julien Friedler's works, subscribers and patrons.

The association develops a programme called Be Boz Be Art.

Spirit of Boz looks for new artistic practices around the world and gives them visibility.

Respecting Julien Friedler's intent, the team collects traces of artistic expressions around the world. Loncopue to Togo, across Java, Tibet, Argentina, all the collected works are exchanged and give birth to new expressions.

The Boz becomes a gathering place, a new way to charm the world.



Around the Boz in 80 years

An art work World Heritage of Humanity

QUESTIONNAIRE

First Name and Name :

Gender :

Age :

Nationality :

Date :

E-mail :

1/ DOES GOD EXIST?

2/ HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THIS ERA?

3/ HOW DO YOU SEE THE FUTURE?

4/ ARE YOU HAPPY?

5/ IS SEXUALITY IMPORTANT?

6/ WHO AM I?