

Olivier Menanteau

To Dalia Grybauskaitė,
Presidente of the Republic of Lithuania.
S. Daukanto a. 3, LT 01122 Vilnius. Lt.

Vilnius, the 28 th of september 2010.

Dear President of the Republic of Lithuania,

First I would like to thank you for the speeches that you pronounced since you were elected as President. I read them of on your webside and I am very impressed by your positions on all the topics that you are involve as the individual responsibility of each citizen, the place of the women in the society, or the ecological questions.

As an artists, I am concerned by these topics. My interest focuses on the diversity of human social life in modern world. My images and my movies show life in an office, a factory, an psychiatric hospital, a classroom or a parliament in equal measure. Each image describes the anonymous and personal dimensions of the workplace within the social hierarchy as well as the inner cosmos of those who occupy these places. I try to reveal his position of reversibility — which makes the protagonists in these spaces sometimes subjects, sometimes objects.

I live and work in Paris and Berlin. After 10 years in Marseille, as free lance curator, in 1999, I moved in Dusseldorf and developed his own projects in various institution, such as the United Nations in New York (2006). In this serie of photographs, I used an official pass reserved for press photographers. My methods were the mapping of places where negotiations and discussions with international press and representative persons of the NGO are conducted. Now, I am in Vilnius for five months and I would like to follow your public activities for some months as your official photographer. I would like to make a sort of diary of your public activity during a period of time. I am very interested by official meetings which you can have with the common citizens, the journalists, with the representative persons of the society and with the politicians from Lithuania or other countries.

I work with a big camera as an anthropologist or an observer, I don't move a lot ans I can stay a long time in a same place without disturbing people during meetings and conférences. I work also with video and if you would have time and would agree, at the end of my project. I would like to make an interview with you.

My aim is to consider how a president produces and maintains its image in a democratic country as Lithuania and in an international context. With these pictures I would try to understand and to show, how a single person can be a legitimated authority in the flux of the media informations. How we can read the history and the future of the Lithuania in your public representativeness?

It's very important for the future of the European Union that the power and the presidency of a country belong to a woman. The citizens of this space need to have a different voice. That is why I would like to make this project.

*I hope you will accept my request and I am waiting for your answer with confidence.
Looking forward to seeing you soon, Yours sincerely.*

Olivier Menanteau