

ALESSANDRO DE FRANCESCO - LANGUAGE ART STUDIO
THREE POETIC ENGINES: EXHIBITION, ARTIST BOOK AND SOUND INSTALLATION
FOR **BeHAVE - BELVAL, LUXEMBOURG, 2016**



photo © Michael Pinsky

Curators: Stéphanie Delcroix & Michael Pinsky
President of the Artistic Committee: Hubertus von Amelunxen

Three Poetic Engines is a project by Alessandro De Francesco realized in the framework of the artistic residency program *BeHave – Public Art Experience*. It took place between 2015 and 2016 in the former metallurgical site of Belval, Luxembourg, which is now being reactivated as the main campus of the University of Luxembourg and as a place for living and working in different service-oriented contexts.

Project curator Stéphanie Delcroix wrote about Alessandro De Francesco's project:

"*Three Poetic Engines* is articulated in three gestures: an artist book, a sound installation and a series of framed prints that the artist calls *Augmented Writing*. All these works combine elements connected to the history and the present of Belval. They show the way in which the artist conversed with this place and discovered its *genius loci* among the inhabitants, workers, researchers, students and architects related to Belval, women and men of very different generations. In this work, archive documents, conversations and poems meet, communicate and contemplate each other. For *Three Poetic Engines*, Alessandro De Francesco devoted himself to the art of making *verses* and of *(con)versing* with the people who live, study or work in Belval and its surroundings.

The book *Three Poetic Engines* reunites and announces these three engines. Indeed, for the first part, entitled '*1. Engine meet, say*', the artist transcribed a series of conversations he had with the people of Belval. The conversational engine turns around the past of Belval, the relation to its blast furnaces, and the hopes related to the conversion of the factory into a research centre, among other topics. In formal terms, it reverses on the page the organization of these conversations: the answers precede the questions, so that the differentiation of the artist-investigator-author is melted with the one of his interlocutor-(con)versator.

The second engine '*2. Engine cartography, enhancement*' extends the writing and the line beyond the pages of the artist book. These framed prints fall within the continuity of the writing and archival method called by the artist *Augmented Writing*. Alessandro De Francesco conceives the augmented writing as 'a critical writing practice interrupting the linearity of language-based informational and commercial production [...], thus blocking the flux of images [...]'.

Because of their convex appearance, some of these prints seem to exit the page and pour their content out of it. For their composition, the artist used excerpts of archive documents, fragments of his (con)versations with the people of Belval as well as of his own writing, i.e. the poetry by which the third part of the book is formed: '*3. Engine re-write*'. For Alessandro De Francesco, these poems 'summarize the experience of individual and collective life which resulted from the observations and the encounters occurred during the three months of my residency'".

Artist book
Three Poetic Engines
Paris: Mix. & Luxembourg: Le Fonds Belval
2016



photo © Michael Pinsky

With texts by Stéphanie Delcroix and Hubertus von Amelunxen
120 pages, 25,3 x 30 cm
Language: English, French, German, Italian.
Introduction in English by Alessandro De Francesco available online at the following link:
http://alessandrodefrancesco.net/text/tep_intro_e.pdf

The book is published in a unique edition of 2000 non commercial copies. It can be ordered for free until copies are available at info@alessandrodefrancesco.net

Exhibition
Three Poetic Engines
Augmented Writing - Engine cartography, enhancement
Belval, Luxembourg, July - September 2016

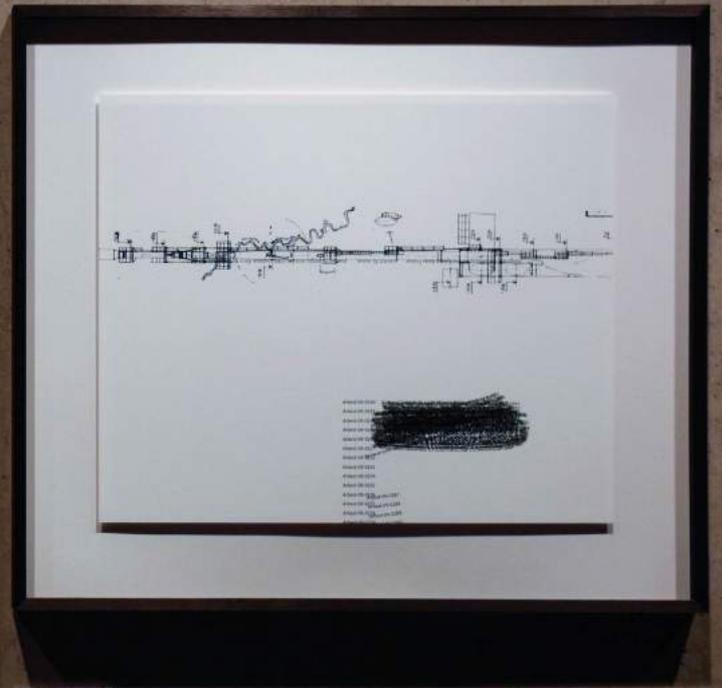


photo © Michael Pinsky

14 digital prints on paper, 76 x 86 x 04 cm (framed). These 14 pieces are part of the sequence of 22 that is entirely featured in the artist book. All pieces belong to the *Augmented Writing* series (www.augmentedwriting.com).



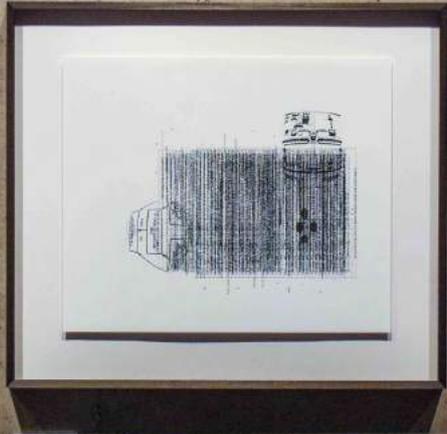
Architectural floor plan drawing, 1920s.



Architectural section drawing, 1920s.



Architectural drawing with text and circular diagram, 1920s.



Architectural drawing with dense grid of lines, 1920s.



Architectural drawing with small square and curved line, 1920s.

Sound installation - Reading Environment

Three Poetic Engines - Engine meet, say

in collaboration with Paolo Ingresso

Audio sample at the following URL:

http://www.alessandrodefrancesco.net/TEP_RE.html

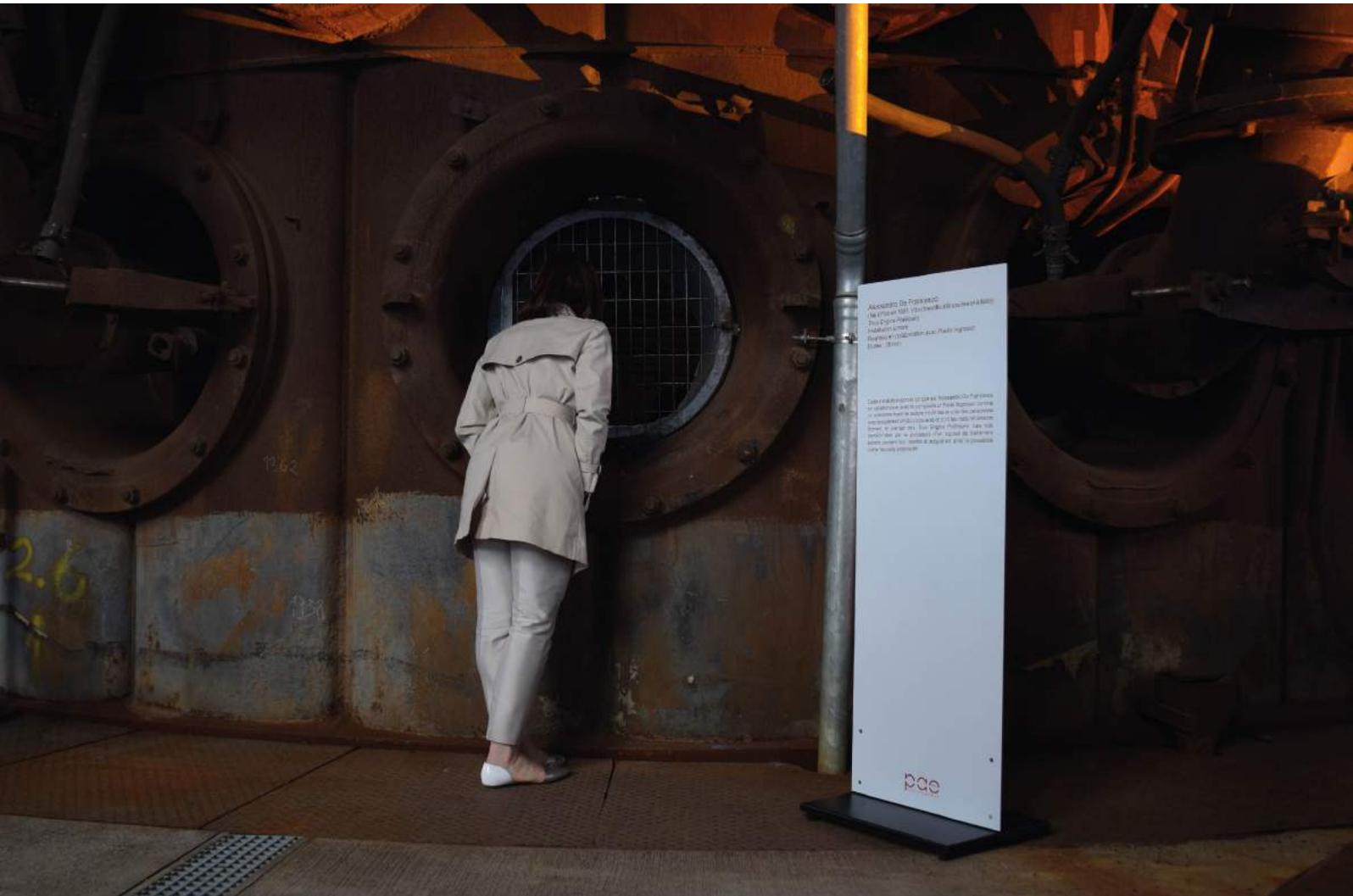


photo © Michael Pinsky

The sound part of *Three Poetic Engines* is a two-channels, 35-minutes loop entirely realized with the recordings of the interviews made by Alessandro De Francesco during his residency in Belval. The voices of his interlocutors have been digitally processed in collaboration with the composer and sound designer Paolo Ingresso. Hidden sound equipment makes the voices resonate in the whole blast furnace A of the former factory. None of the loudspeakers is visible by the visitors. Like in all Alessandro De Francesco's reading environments (performances and installations based on textual material and spoken voice), the sole sound material used here is human voice.



photo © Paolo Ingresso

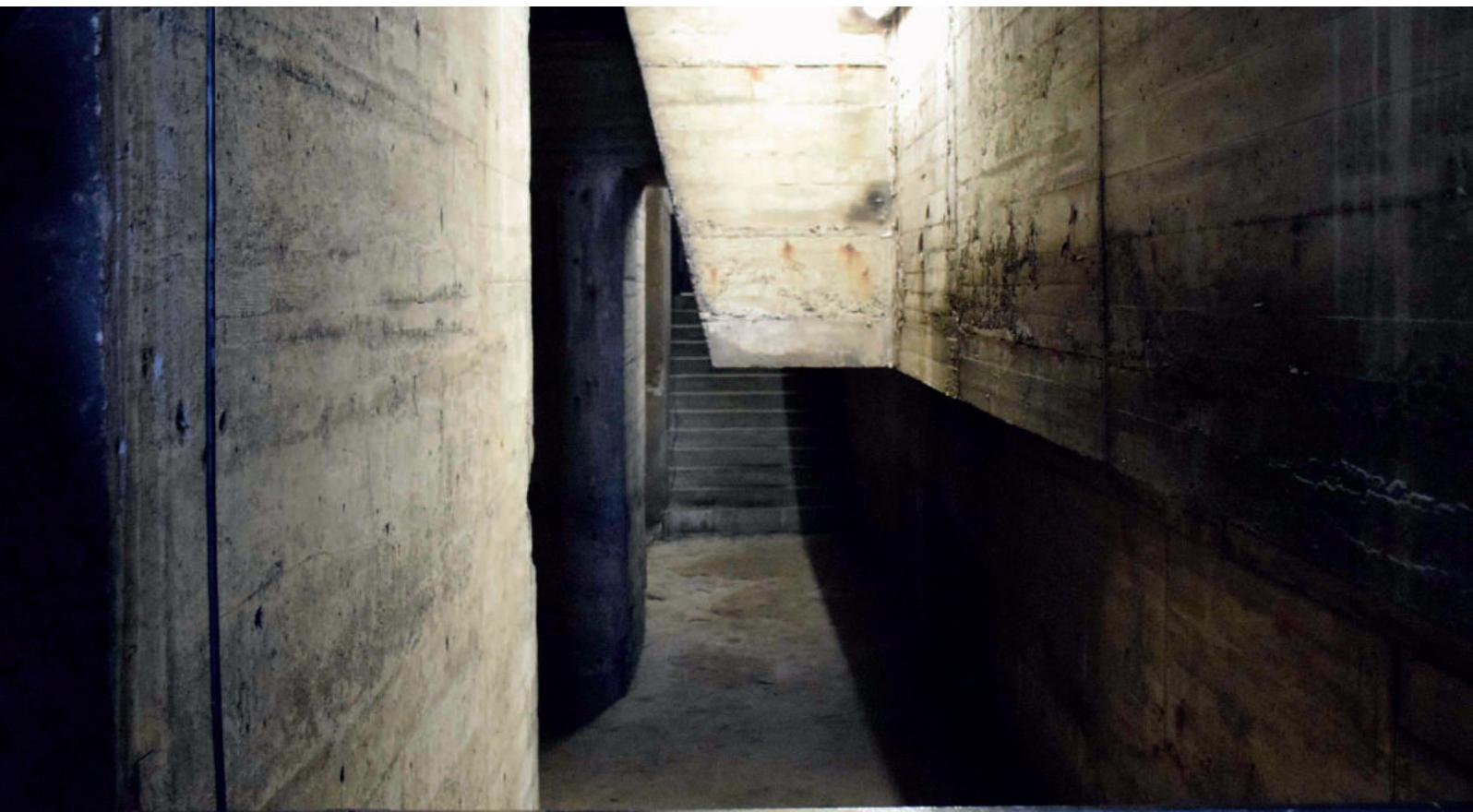


photo © Michael Pinsky



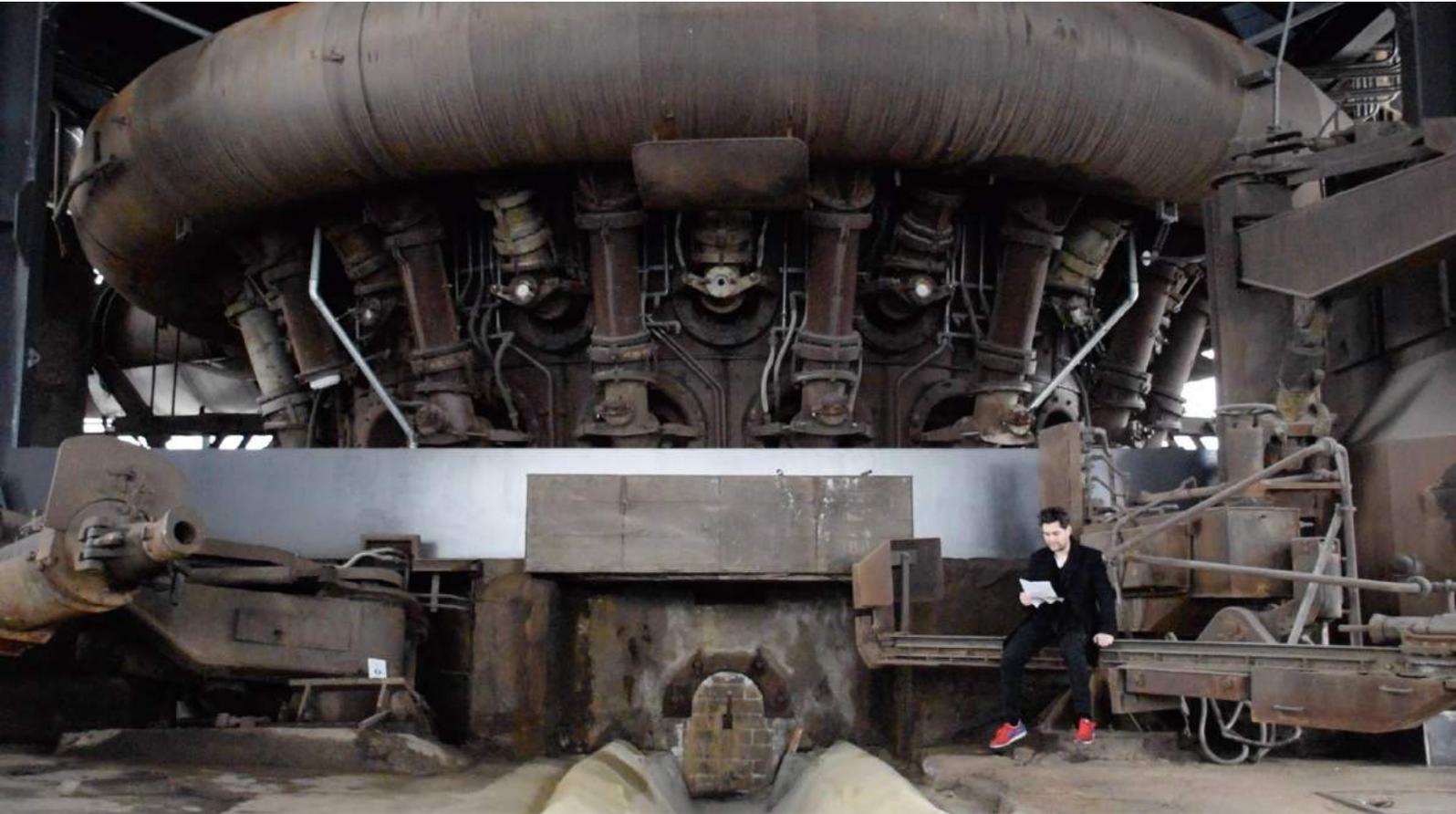
SIDE PROJECTS



Alessandro De Francesco & Michael Pinsky, *derrière le rideau*, video still

Videos

realized with Michael Pinsky



Alessandro De Francesco & Michael Pinsky, *jusqu'à la distribution des gouttes*, video still

Series of videopoems / reading environments by Alessandro De Francesco and Michael Pinsky as public interventions in the industrial site of Belval, Luxembourg. Color, sound, UK/L.

Production: Le Fonds Belval / Delcroix & Pinsky, 2015.

Videos available online at: <http://delcroixpinsky.com/projects/behave/alessandro-de-francesco/>

Visual Journal

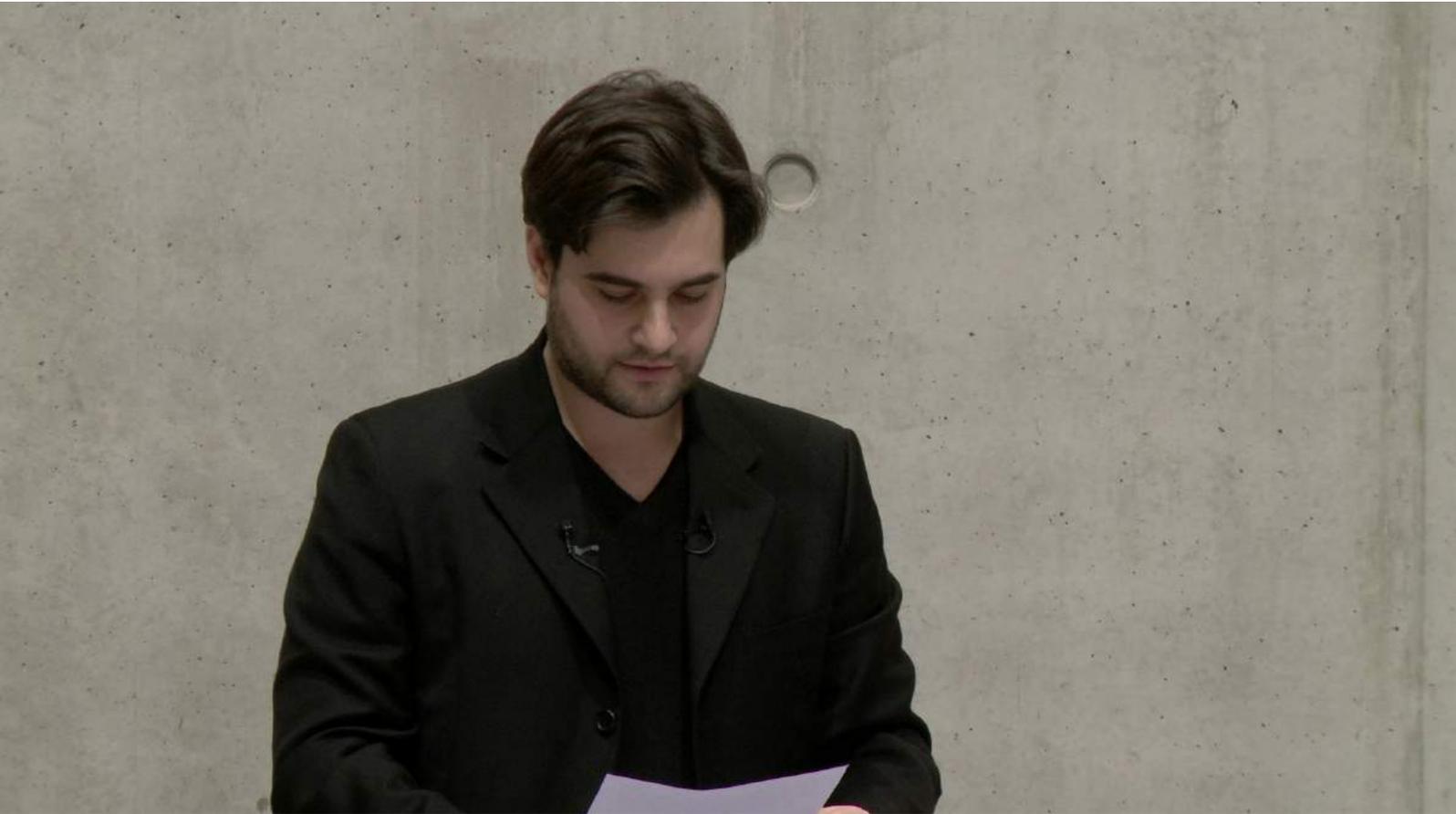
Language Art Studio Looking at the Hauts-Fourneaux



During his residency stay in Belval, Alessandro De Francesco opened a blog of conceptual photography which was conceived as a journal of his residency. From October 28th 2015 to January 16th 2016, the artist posted a picture for each day of presence in his studio in Belval. Each picture features the view of the former blast furnaces of Belval seen from the window of the artist's studio, together with the date and time in which the photo was shot, and of the picture of the artist's eye while looking out of the window.

URL of the blog: <http://languageartstudio-behave.tumblr.com>

Performance
Récits d'un lieu
January 13th 2016



Alessandro De Francesco, *Récits d'un lieu*, performance, video still (camera: Catherine Richard)

Alessandro De Francesco realized a performance at the end of his residency in Belval. It was organized in three parts:

1- The performative reading of *Engine, re-write*, i.e. of the six prose-poetry texts forming the third part of the book *Three Poetic Engines*.

2- A staged performance of one of the interviews (with 14-years old high school students and their teacher) contained in *Engine meet, say*, i.e. in the first part of the book *Three Poetic Engines*.

3- A poetry reading in three languages from the books *Remote Vision. Poetry 1999-2015* (New York: Punctum Books, 2016, for the English), *La Vision à distance* (Paris: Mix., 2015, for the French) and *Lo spostamento degli oggetti* (Verona: Cierre Grafica 2008, for the Italian).

The performance exploited the peculiar acoustic resonance of the space of the former steel factory in which it took place.

Three Poetic Engines
Language-based interventions in the site of Belval,
Luxembourg, for *BeHave* - Public Art Experience

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