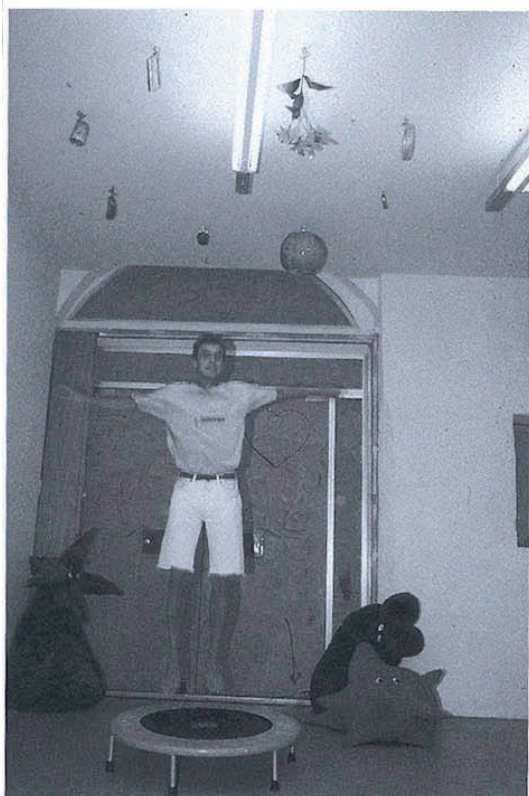


AIR DE PARIS

“LES ATELIERS DU PARADISE”

1990

A film in real time by
Pierre Joseph / Philippe Parreno / Philippe Perrin
at Air de Paris, Nice.



Neither cinema nor theatre, nor even a performance, “Les Ateliers du paradise” has initiated a new genre first discovered by the public in the Summer of 1990 in Nice. The action took place in the newly opened gallery of contemporary art.

The three artists got together there for a holiday that lasted about the same number of days as an exhibition. Under their guidance, the gallery became a place for living and playing where they lived out their lives and fantasies in real time. To provide a stage of some 100 sqm, the artists created a set to meet their objectives. With giant toys, works of art, hi-tech amenities and design furniture, it became a playing area for “spoilt adult children.”

A whole range of services (doctors, language teachers, sport instructors, a psychiatrist, cooks...) were requisitioned for the occasion—in fact, they turned out to be so many specialized mums and dads! Scenes that were not to be totally improvised were organized: one of the artists had a go at diving in a steaming Jacuzzi, while another was pursuing experiments he had initiated at the age of nine. The third listened over and over again to the first ten bars of “Comment to dire adieu,” like Jean-Luc Godard in “Sous le signe du lion.” Other participants were carefully chosen and introduced living sources of information; they were particularly appreciated.

As for the visitor, he is like a movie editor with no film, evolving in a photogenic space. He also becomes an actor, as soon as he participates. An actor’s studio, in some respects ...

“What they did has become normalized within the relative re-structuring that has accompanied new attempts to find ways to pass (art)time, but at that point, sometime in 1990, “Les ateliers du paradise” introduced an element of excess, function and just hanging around that was stark yet convivial,” Liam Gillick wrote in 1999 about the project. And he continues, that driving there by car from London was not “... like turning a corner on leaving the underground and heading straight into a gallery, but more like driving for two days to arrive unannounced and see if there is anything behind the [invitation] card.”

Today Air de Paris is based in Paris, 32, rue Louise Weiss. www.airdeparis.com

