

Balayer - A Map of Sweeping (Varrer – A Map of Sweeping) reflects on the contemporary resonances of an experimental network for living with autistic children which existed between the late '60's and the mid '80's, around the village of Monoblet in the Cevennes (FR). The network was conceived by French educationalist Fernand Deligny as a space of *living with* rather than caring for, outside the institution. Conditions were rudimentary and improvised; the children carried out tasks with the adults and wandered in the countryside. A daily practice of the adults was to trace the movements of the children in their actions and wandering, following closely at a distance; mapping not in order to analyse or translate the child, but as a tool for concentration. Deligny's ideas and writing evolved with the network, central to which was the importance of neither speaking for the other nor putting oneself in their place. He was particularly interested in the children who could not speak, and through all this work the questions persist: what place has language in relation to those who have none? What happens to our own language in the encounter with a stranger?



Christo, April 2014. Video still from *Balayer – A Map of Sweeping*

Balayer – A Map of Sweeping is an installation with ambisonic sound and video (27'00). The work engages in the relation between 'we who speak' (*nous parlons*) and others who do not. Gisèle Durand and her husband Jacques Lin were the first to live and work with Deligny in 1967; they still in Monoblet today with two of the autistic children of the network, Christoph Berton and Gilou Toche - now in their 50's. In the installation two bodies of video are brought together: one filmed during 2014 follows Christo and Gilou engaging in a contemporary act of tracing, initiated by Gisèle. The other is drawn from raw material filmed by Jacques Lin between 2000 and 2008, showing moments of daily life in and around the house - footage for a film to be made.

Ambisonic sound and video installation, 27'00. French, English and Portuguese spoken.

Made in collaboration with Gisèle Durand and Jacques Lin.

With the participation of Christoph Berton, Gilou Toche, Malika Boulainseur.

With the voices of Dominique Hurth and Suely Roelnik.

Ambisonic system developed by Stefan Kazassoglou; video post-production: Martin Wallace.

With thanks to Sandra Alvarez de Toledo
and Wim Cuyvers.

Commissioned by Sao Paulo Bienal 2014: 'How to Struggle with Things that Don't Exist'
Sept 6th – Dec 7th, professional preview 1st - 2nd Sept. <http://www.31bienal.org.br/?l=16>