

THE FOREST OF SOULS AROUND THE BOZ IN 80 YEARS

Six questions for a world cultural heritage art work

Press release

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



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

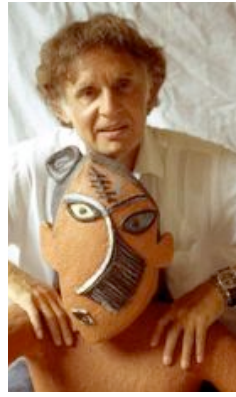
one forest: A FOREST OF SOULS. Very different from a fixed art work in a museum, the forest of souls is above all in a process of movement. A move towards the other and the self, an art work in process, a true laboratory of encounters. Rich of thousands of questionnaires, "Spirit of Boz - Association 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.

More information on our website :

<http://bebozbeart.spiritofboz.com/the-forest-of-soul/>

About Julien Friedler



Julien Friedler was born in 1950 in Brussels. A philosopher and psychoanalyst before becoming poet and visual artist, he founded 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



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.

Be Boz Be Art

The work is collective

Be Boz Be Art is a complete program: artistic, humanistic and philosophical. It is made up of three projects: the Forest of Souls (Around the Boz in 80 years), the Celestial Tramp, Give Up. These three projects lead to meetings, reportages and exhibitions.

Be Boz Be Art is a contemplative project. The association will never support any political cause. This is a movement made of art researchers. Our interventions allow artistic expression to bloom in places where it seems to be lacking.

“**The Forest of Souls**” is a project started in 2006 by Julien Friedler and it is conceived to last 80 years. It is about finding out the thoughts of different people, their cultures. The questions are always the same, the answers change. Written or drawn, dreamt or sung, they create the upcoming artwork: the forest of souls. We distribute the questionnaire to those who are willing to participate, without any discrimination of race, beliefs, political affinities or education. The six questions

asked to the participants can keep you awoken! All answers are accepted: written, drawn, sculpted, sung, torn.

All questionnaires are grouped and put into columns. Each column is a tree. The Forest of Souls will get real through an exhibition in 2014.

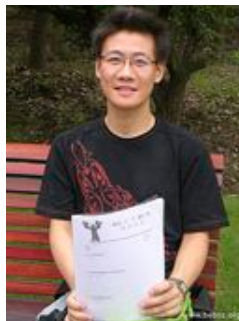
Each time we travel we meet cultures, daily lives. We will collect daily objects (or other objects) from people who will be willing to donate them. These objects travel and are then given to artists or non-artists for interpretation.

Give Up is a new look at society. Objects speak, they describe a daily reality. We portray those who give these objects in order to ease meetings across the world.

From the streets of Brussels to Jakarta peripheries, with street children in Rwanda, the program “**Celestial Tramp**” provides people in precarious or poor conditions the means for artistic expression. It is about witnessing the world and its reality. We show artistic expression as it can bloom anywhere. We share a dream, an instant of freedom out of the time.

Be Boz Be Art

Is a program of “art seekers”. From Brussels to Buenos Aires, crossing Java and Tibet, we meet artistic practices and reveal their existence. We create links among cultures and try to show them.





The Boz TV

The world tour of thinking

The Boz Tv gathers all video creations made around the Boz.

Many “channels” or themes are available:

- > **Celestial Tramp**, where you can find the reportages about actions carried out with people living in precarious conditions.
- > **Give Up** where you find exchanges of objects and their re-invention.
- > **Boz Reporter**: the channel of the look at journeys: to look at travels in a different way.
- > **Forest of souls**: the interviews around the Boz and around the world. With this recent project we aim to make a world tour of thinking around two questions taken from the questionnaire of the Forest of souls plus an additional one.

Philippe Minyana (playwriter, prix of l’Académie française), **Frédéric Maragnani** (theatre director and director of Manufacture de l’Atlantique), **George Wolinski** (press designer), **Maryse Wolinski** (author and journalist), **Myriam Touzé** (film director and chief operator), **Jacqueline Zinetti** (psychiatrist and former director of the *prison de santé*), **Lhaba** (Tibetan monk), etc. All of them accepted to reply and be part of this great adventure.

Other portraits will follow, other looks that we hope to gather and confront in an international symposium.

Get to know the Boz TV :
www.boztv.com



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SPIRIT OF BOZ

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