

Michel VERJUX

A Brief Discussion of the Work

“Light is introduced into an existing situation (in a specific space at a specific time) and presents the viewer with the act of exhibiting itself: the necessary and sufficient minimum.”¹

“Not light itself, but illumination.”²

“To illuminate, and only illuminate, already means to exhibit.”³

My works, *éclairages*, or illuminations, primarily consist of directed, contained and focused light projections. They can—indeed, in my view, they *must*—not only be viewed as simple *images*, shapes or geometric symbols of projected light in real space, but also and above all as *indices* and *symbols* of the event, the act, the circumstance, the object and the way in which the exhibition, regardless of what is being exhibited, presents itself to the eye of the viewer, depending on his or her angle of approach.

These works point to an artistic practice that concentrates on the *act of showing* and circles back to what characterizes *exhibiting* in general and in particular—a practice that is limited to the creation of *éclairages*, with a pinch of irony. What is in play here, what is presented and utilized, is first and foremost the existential dimension of artistic production, and then the rejection (provided this is possible) of the work as a material object (or a simple product), and finally the will to achieve a comparably high degree of conceptual precision and clarification in the context of art (regardless of how extended, unsure and complex it may be).

With this artistic practice, I am attempting to illustrate the *uniqueness* of the work and thus explore its present place and status. My aim is to use its ability to *take hold* of us and to encourage us to *physically interact* with the various elements, factors and parameters that belong to this work and the place in which we find ourselves as well as the moment in which it shows itself to us. At the same time, I hope to use its ability to *question* our view of the world around us.

Michel VERJUX, Père-Lachaise studio, Paris, on the 19,867th day of my life
Autumn 2010

¹ Michel Verjux, *Notes numérotées à mon nombre de jours de vie*, note n° 10054 (1983), unpublished.

² Michel Verjux, *ibid.*, note n° 9987 (1983).

³ Michel Verjux, *ibid.*, note n° 10818 (1986).