

# Berlin and Phenomena

by Wolf Vostell



1966  
A Great Bear Pamphlet  
New York



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## BERLIN

100 events  
on the streets and in apartments and stores  
for a chance public

took place on the 10th of november 1965  
from 9 a.m. to 4:10 p.m.  
within the city limits of BERLIN

100 events each lasting 1 minute

in actions that might have lasted longer  
enough persons participated to enable the performance  
to take place in 1 minute

100 minutes of 430 minutes accentuated  
to make the public conscious  
of the performances as works of art 100 times

performers: wolf vostell—vagelis tsakiridis—reinhard lettau  
accompanied by a camera crew from the south  
german broadcasting and television network and  
free-lance photographer juergen mueller-schneck

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## PHENOMENA

*a dé-coll/age happening*

sponsored by the BLOCK gallery the 27th of march 1965 in the  
automobile graveyard at sachsendamm in BERLIN

participants: the public and twelve human phenomena

k. p. BREHMER	h. c. ARTMANN	j. PETERSEN
v. TSAKIRIDIS	p. o. CHOTJEWITZ	l. GOSEWITZ
h. HOEDICKE	s. d. SAUERBIER	h. NITSCH
m. LUEPERTZ	w. VOSTELL	r. BLOCK

live a second

a minute

an hour

a phase of 1965

dé-coll/agitated and made conscious through VOSTELL

automobile graveyard near tempelhof airport

airplanes constantly fly over the site

spectators climb and crawl through the labyrinth of automor-  
biles following a route marked off with ropes

rené block distributes instructions to the public

by Wolf Vostell

9

about 500 wrecked cars

old car bodies are covered with shrouds

hoedicke sits silent in an open green ford

he is wearing transparent plastic gloves and holding a spray  
can in each hand

he sprays blue-green paint on his hands and into the air during  
the entire event

he sits near a puddle of water in which american flags are floating

chotjewitz lies on an iron bed in front of a board with 25 red  
airport signal lights

he is wrapped up in rubber innertubes and from his forehead  
wires lead to the red lights lie-detector style

he reads over and over again a news item from the tagesspiegel  
of march 27:

*"It was officially reported further that the South  
Vietnamese were supplied with three types of gas  
known in the American Army as CN, AM and CS.  
These types of gas are also used by American police  
as well as by night watchmen and private guards..."*

the route marked off for the public to follow passes through a  
chain of five automobiles from each of which a loudspeaker  
emits a different radio program so loud that acoustic fields  
are created through which the participants must crawl

gray dkw

pink volkswagen

green mercedes

blue opel



nitsch binds himself to the public

luepertz binds himself to the public

vostell binds himself to the public

(translated by Laura P. Williams)

## WOLF VOSTELL

was born in Leverkusen, Germany, in 1932. He studied typography and lithography in Cologne and Wuppertal, and painting in Dusseldorf and at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris.

In 1954 Vostell chose the word "dé-coll/age" to describe his erasures, demonstrations, events and Happenings, which he pioneered in Europe. In the past decade he has produced dé-coll/age Happenings in many European cities, using the metropolis itself as his theater of operations, and has exhibited his graphic work in Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Spain and the United States.

Since 1962 Vostell has edited five numbers of *dé-coll/age*, a unique international anthology and proving ground for the avant garde. (Copies are available through the Something Else Press.) His publications include *phasen* (with Juergen Becker and Max Bense), Galerie der Spiegel, Cologne, 1960; *TPL* (with François Dufrêne and Alain Jouffroy), Kalender Verlag, Dusseldorf, 1961; *Happenings* (with Juergen Becker), Rowohlt Verlag, Hamburg, 1965, and *2 Dé-coll/age Happenings*, Verlag Galerie Block, Berlin, 1966 (published in English as Great Bear Pamphlet #9). The Something Else Press plans for Fall publication *Dé-coll/age Happenings*, a comprehensive collection of Vostell's scenarios together with a portfolio of his notations.



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