

SYLVIA SCHWENK

24 March - 14 April 2009



Sylvia Schwenk,
Life Preservers IV,
Suedstadt, Cologne,
2008

They paved paradise, put up a parking lot

Schwenk's exhibition of performance, photographic and installation based work, shows off the latest footwear and fashion needed for global warming and runs until Saturday 18 April. The exhibition opens with a performance of *Boots for Rising Waters*, involving women modelling gumboots with black stilt-like fixtures on their base.

Schwenk's work is generally socially based interventions performed in the urban landscape, and she looks to reconnect art and life through performance. She uses fashion, life between buildings, the human body and performance to create awareness,

discussion and engagement of issues, through participation. Schwenk's performances are based on a platform of fun and lightheartedness, which engenders positive experiences for the performers and passers-by, who become actors in the shared public space of the intervention.

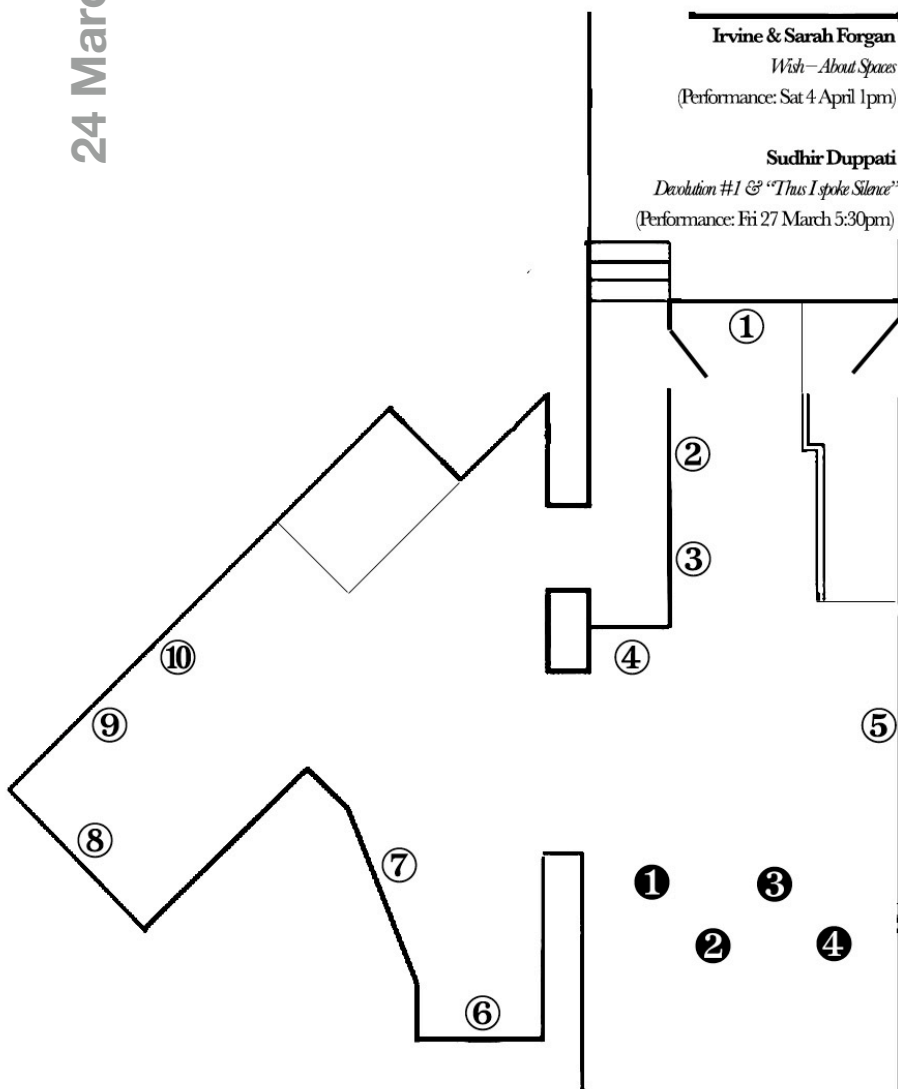
As a part of the Dunedin Fringe Festival, Schwenk will also choreograph and direct local participants to form giant and individual Xs with their bodies in and around the Octagon. *X Performance Dunedin* will be performed on Friday 27 March at 1pm. Schwenk says she "uses the city as a canvas because it is such an essential

space for interaction, for exchange and social activity across people of all different demographics." *X Performance Dunedin* will look at various issues including community and freedom of expression.

The Blue Oyster Gallery will also be hosting two other Fringe Festival performances: *Wish - About Spaces* by Irvine and Sarah Forgan on Sat 4 April at 1pm and *Devolution #1 & "Thus I spoke Silence"* by Sudhir Duppati on Fri 27 March at 5.30pm. Traces of the performances will inhabit Blue Oyster gallery spaces from Tues 24 to Sat 18 March.



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- ① Boots for Rising Waters IV, on the stairs of the Dom Cathedral, Cologne 2008 Photograph on Ilford satin paper 80cm x 60cm (unframed) #8 of 20
- ② Boots for Rising Waters II, on the stairs of the Dom Cathedral, Cologne 2008 Photograph on Ilford satin paper 80cm x 60cm (unframed) #8 of 20
- ③ Boots for Rising Waters III, on the stairs of the Dom Cathedral, Cologne 2008 Photograph on Ilford satin paper 80cm x 60cm (unframed) #8 of 20
- ④ Boots for Rising Waters I, on the stairs of the Dom Cathedral, Cologne 2008 Photograph on Ilford satin paper 60cm x 80cm (unframed) #8 of 20
- ⑤ Boots for Rising Waters V, on the stairs of the Dom Cathedral, Cologne 2008 Photograph on Ilford satin paper 80cm x 60cm (unframed) #8 of 20
- ⑥ Life Preservers V, Suedstadt Cologne 2008 Photograph on Ilford satin paper 60cm x 80cm (unframed) #8 of 20
- ⑦ Life Preservers IV, Suedstadt Cologne 2008 Photograph on Ilford satin paper 88cm x 60cm (unframed) #8 of 20
- ⑧ Life Preservers I, Suedstadt Cologne 2008 Photograph on Ilford satin paper 80cm x 60cm (unframed) #8 of 20
- ⑨ Life Preservers II, Suedstadt Cologne 2008 Photograph on Ilford satin paper 80cm x 60cm (unframed) #8 of 20
- ⑩ Life Preservers III, Suedstadt Cologne 2008 Photograph on Ilford satin paper 80cm x 60cm (unframed) #8 of 20

- ① Boots for Rising Waters I 2008 Gum-boots, timber, black enamel 58cm x 28cm x 6cm #1 and #2 of 2
- ② Boots for Rising Waters II 2008 Gum-boots, timber, black enamel 53cm x 28cm x 6cm #1 of 2
- ③ Boots for Rising Waters III 2008 Gum-boots, timber, black enamel 48cm x 28cm x 6cm #1 and #2 of 2
- ④ Boots for Rising Waters IV 2008 Gum-boots, timber, black enamel 43cm x 28cm x 6cm #1 and #2 of 2

