



Exhibition «The Body and the city»  
16/07/1999 - 26/09/1999

## **A city of one's own**

Michel Foucault explained how power leaves its mark on men's bodies. Van der Keuken has ranged cities with his camera in an attempt to discover just how they leave their mark on our bodies. He found that bodies form part of the city, because it is bodies that form the underlying stratum of plurality that characterises the city. A body is an experience. And every experience is unrepeatable, though it has a place: van der Keuken locates this place in the city. This discovery leads him to transfer the idea of body to the city itself. The city is another body on which man leaves his mark. From this perspective, van der Keuken's erratic ranging from one city to another enables him to construct a common territory: the territory of body and city in which personal experience is written. We are, ultimately, a city of cities, a sum of marks –from the colour of New York to the degradation of Sarajevo– which work their way into the imaginary of each individual. A city of one's own.

Van der Keuken and other artists like him present us with a possible image of the world made according to man's measure, because it is upon man's experience that this image is constructed, giving rise to an idea of globality which has nothing to do with ideology (globalism) or technology (globalisation). In turn, this image announces manifold images: the world-city that each person builds as a place of his own. Van der Keuken's city is not a flight to a virtual territory –quite the contrary: the capacity for integrating, by means of experience, all the places where our presence has been meaningful, leaves the mark of the component parts on us.