

## ENCODED MESSAGE Labirynt Festival X in Klodzko / Poland, October 2008



„Deceiving the Eye“ was the theme of this year's festival. Like the preceding festivals it was curated by Jerzy Olek and organised by Boguslaw Michnik and his team with numerous interventions in the city and neighbouring towns and villages.

My installation „Encoded Message“ in the garage of the Culture Centre in Klodzko revived and extended a concept from 1991.

I have covered a wall with a great number of different nails holding many different keys: old rusty ones as well as those others of polished modern make. A magically shining light bulb is floating on a long string low above the ground, throwing the shadows of the keys onto the wall. I have then painted those shadows with black watercolour. Five black cords were stretched out between two pillars like staves. When the lightsource is set into motion the shadows of the nails and keys dance on the lines and around the painted shadow images like the notation of an imaginary melody. For the opening the Polish poet, performance artist and saxophone player Krzystof Karwowski has improvised from this random score.

Keys are archetypal symbols. They close and open mysterious, unknown and forbidden doors in real life and in fairy tales as well. In the gloomy castle of King Bluebeard the opening of one specific door is cruelly punished and in Kafka's tragic doorkeeper story „Before the Law“ the protagonist cannot understand that the door was kept open solely for him. With my „encoded message“ I offer hundreds of keys and key shadows to open and pass through innumerable unknown doors, real ones and those of dreams.



Gisela Weimann 1991/2008

