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Love at a Distance

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***Late Night Show* on ME Contemporary stages in a brutally honest way a fascinating but tragic story of the exposed human and the desperate struggle for closeness.**

An extremely successful performance on the edge of reality has been documented and is now shown as a part of Nin Brudermann's *Gesamtkunstwerk* at ME Contemporary. *Late Night Show* tells in a new way a both fascinating and eerie story of a relationship that went way too far. And it's a true story...

The Austrian artist Nin Brudermann, who often works at the edge of reality are these days staging a scary story from our very own Facebook world.

The Scene is set

We are sitting in the darkness without knowing what the next hour will bring. The famous journalist, writer and former Deadline host Martin Krasnik finds his chair on the small stage in the gallery. The jingle to the programme flows from the speakers, the cameras are rolling and *Late Night Show* can begin.

"Welcome to the *Late Night Show*. Tonight's show will be really exiting featuring the famous actress and musician with a record ready release Cathryne Raine. So it's a great pleasure for me to welcome CATHRYNE RAINE!" says Krasnik. We're clapping. The jingle is rerun and in comes a skinny girl in a bright red outfit, her hair as big as her smile which breaks the barrier right away.

The scene is set and Ms. Raine finds her seat between black plastic bags and storage boxes.

For the next 45 minutes the secret hidden in the black bags and the boxes is slowly unfolded. The audience is more than a little puzzled.

Love in the Times of the Stalker

Late Night Show puts on display the tragic story of human passion when the mind is desperately fighting to create some kind of relationship in a not exactly sane way.

The thought is interesting - but to follow a person for seven years, lurking outside the flat, observe every movement, registering every tenement, every piece of random trash and to carefully collect it all in black bags, photo albums and note books - that is absurd. That is stalking taken to its extreme, relationships without unity. Tragic.

Humanity Exposed

The scenario might as well be for real. The presence of Martin Krasnik makes a point of this. This late night show is a regular part of the media and the human exposure we see too way too often.

Desire, loneliness, desperation, surveillance and the breakdown of the private sphere (Facebook is an example) are the cold facts that forms the base for *Late Night Show* but also for the real world outside of the gallery.

The Absurdity of Normality

As a paradox we become a totally normal audience, Krasnik a totally normal host, and the story of Cathrine Raines a totally normal story thanks to the eminent performance skills of Raine and Krasnik.

But because of the extreme plot and handheld camera (authentic) video footage makes the story about the common American girl from High School who went too far in her attempts to get close to "Mike" totally absurd. Seven years of pursuit where everything else meant nothing is in everyway commonplace (yet!)

Moral Considerations

The girl who Catheryn Raine impersonates is, despite all the absurdities, a true character. She gave her collection of collected material the ambiguous title *To Ruin a Stranger* which suggests the true tragedy and the moral struggle she suffered for seven years.

What is interesting is the fact that *Late Night Show* would be nothing without her psychosis - for which she was medicated - the vast collection of information, objects and notes and the following encouragement by Nin Brudermann to tell her story.

Here the absurdities are biting their own tail and you are confronted with a number of moralistic considerations. But that certainly doesn't make the exhibition less interesting.

As suggested earlier it is a disturbing exhibition and when you in the last part of the performance realize that the victim "Mike" might be sending death threats through his garbage to our main character it sends shivers down the spine.

On my way home I'm fighting all the impressions, the tragic fates, the moralistic considerations and I try to categorize *Late Night Show* as just another "good story". It is just that - it's not...