

The following is one of six projects that took place during the summer of 2010 as part of the Celebration of the Bow River event. This series of temporary public art interventions gave citizens and visitors of Calgary the opportunity to celebrate and reflect upon the precious Bow River.

**Title - Letter Performances**

**Artist - Cécile Belmont with TRUCK Contemporary Art**

**The Project**

A *Letter Performance* involves a group of people meeting in a public place to perform a predetermined act of messaging or communication. The performances provoke a reaction and bring people together to create a 'buzz'.



Belmont's *Letter Performances* were made of groups of local residents each wearing a single letter on their shirt and coming together to build a sentence. Five different performances addressed Calgary's multifaceted relationship with the Bow River: each participant simultaneously existed as an individual with their own history and character and as part of a collective action, celebrating what animates and identifies them. *Letter Performances* drew a portrait of the Bow River area through its users, exposing the specificities, memory, and the relationship of the inhabitants with their river.



**The Artist – In her words...**

By using simple means and techniques, my work asserts itself as a space where the fragile intensity of the human – with its emotions, desires, relationship with others and with reality – is put back into the center of thought.

My work is composed of various activities that influence each other and create a particular dynamic. The urban interventions, the performances, the clothing and the cut-paper installations act as locations for action that widen the possible dissemination of my images, placing them in different contexts and relationships to the audience – from the street into the gallery and from the gallery on to the street.

By confronting the individual and the collective, I question how to speak about the world through intimacy and how this intimacy receives the assaults of the external world. Resolutely inscribed in the reality which surrounds it, my work proposes an appropriation of public space and everyday life as a place for self-expression and encounter with the other.

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