

István Zelenka: some *ars poetica* 2015 (180215)

I am composer, somebody who puts things together.

I compose sometimes with sounds and silences, sometimes with movements, gestures, postures of the body, sometimes with words, sentences, fragments of texts in some languages, sometimes, assisted by the computer, with forms and colors, sometimes in the mind with thoughts, memories, dreams, impressions, whatsoever stimuli.

In autumn 2011 Ensemble baBel, Lausanne Switzerland, invited me to counsel them in the elaboration of their imposing project to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of John Cage's birth.

This program of 100 performances, concerts and divers manifestations within a whole year in some countries in Europe and in the USA should become a coherent union of 100 events with preserved diversity.

Ensemble baBel asked me how would/could I define my role in the ambitious context of this adventure.

"I would like become and act as an aspirant inspirer" was my instantaneous response surprising myself too by the promptness of the formulation.

I address no march order but an invitation to the person who could be interested to invent his/her personal version of one of my wide open conceived compositions and becomes in this way an autonomous as much as accomplice co-author of our adventure.

I became progressively aware that from the last decades of the twentieth century on my play and work of composition, and probably my attitude towards other people, correspond more and more to the ideal of acting as an aspirant inspirer.