

**THE GLASSES GANG** or how to consider a house as work of art in the heart of debruxellation abruvellation?

Reality always overtakes fiction. In the kingdom of Belgium, I have elaborated the "**Building site of Glasses**" and launched the Lucien Guillaume de Longprés collection with the industrial partnership of **OLFA**.

At the time, I was renting a flat in Saint-Gilles, my three adjoining rooms became all too quickly invaded by dozens of toilet glasses (seats) and their paper packaging. I then started to search for more adequate space, a sort of warehouse, a closed down factory or a loft. I also looked through the real estate adverts : à louer/ te huur (to rent), à vendre/te koop (to sell) and through the public auctions. Cycling as far as Rhodes-Saint-Genèse, Waterloo: I almost criss-crossed the 19 communes. **My vision often disturbed by silly street name plates**, charmed by so much hidden poetry, I ended up by reading Bruxelles / Brussel as bilingual dictionary. It was during the "white year" that, therefore, I elected Brussels Capital as possible dwelling place in the heart of Europe. **A surrealistic act if one could say so**. In the city centre, right next to the Manneken Pis, an enamelled plate literally caught my attention: Impasse des Lunettes / Brillengang (Glasses Gang). At number 11 of this so called dead end, I visited a small building up for public auction. The crazy bidding avoided in extremis. ON THE YEAR ONE THOUSEND NINETEEN NINETY SEVEN. The 29th of September, 3.00 PM at the third session, I acquired this property. **A house to be considered as a medium**. In addition to the residence notarial act, is the appropriation of a postal address. Headed paper, flyers, visiting cards were printed. The letterbox, proceeded for collecting different and diverse envelopes, stamped and dated, received and perceived as wide range of working material. **A house to be seen as sculpture**. And vice-versa. In this way I went, here in Brussels, on soft ground, from headed paper to a possible (juwel) case. The insalubrious building was thoroughly renovated from top to bottom according to the prescribed rules (of the art). Conceptual/painter artist, I became tum in tum stonebreaker, archeologist, architect, builder, glazier, electrician, plumber, heating engineer, plasterer, carpenter ... painter/decorator.

This is not a house (Ceci n'est pas une maison), this is not an ivory tower but a tower as an inside-out gazebo (Pas une tour d'ivoire mais une tour pour y voir).

A citizen artist in the impasse... 2001

OLFA : toilet seats (glasses) maker. Brussels : from Brucellas, habitations on ancient marshlands