

artpress

"Causeries is a project that was initiated in 2012 by Defne Ayas, director of the Witte de With contemporary art center in Rotterdam. It was envisioned as a way of presenting the ongoing research I was doing during my residency there.

The word 'causeries' allows for a relaxed format in that it suggests not a serious conversation or a dialogue but more an inquiry into subjects that interest me.

As an artist I receive frequent invitations to take part in symposiums and the *Causeries* are a slightly 'selfish' way of doing this. They are also a way of getting in touch with people I would like to get to know, and of going deeper into certain, very specific subjects. The *Causeries* also allow me to put myself in the position of the person asking the questions, the contributor delivering 'knowledge' to the public. And although the answers come directly from discoveries I made during my researches, I put a lot of preparation into asking the right questions, so that the conversation will be as interactive as possible.

For the time being there is only one *Causerie*, *The Humans*, made up of a series of encounters with academicians, scientists and philosophers discussing such subjects as Hindu philosophy, Aristotle, *South Park* and even scatology: in all, 29 conversations held during my residency at Witte de With. Most were one-to-one exchanges, a few others round tables with several contributors. In the long term, I like the idea of being able to organize one *Causerie* per year or have them a few years apart. The format is flexible. You can imagine in ten years time a collection of *Causeries* being formed around various subjects, giving an overall meaning to my researches in general.

At the Palais de la Découverte, the conversation will be about Fellini's drawings and their relation to the films.

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Alexandre Singh. « Causeries ».

Witte de With. Rotterdam

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ALEXANDRE SINGH

Causeries

Palais de la Découverte

