

## **RWR CHAPTER 4 - TELL ME WHERE YOU STAND!: A PARTICIPATORY ART EXPERIMENT**

**Original music sound: Sag mir, wo du stehst, Oktoberklub 1967**

**Comment female journalist**

Excuse me? Can I ask you a question? "Sag mir, wo du stehst?", Where do you stand?

**Comment male pedestrian**

Erm....

**Comment female journalist**

Well, I mean - where would you position yourself? Can you describe it? Or maybe even show me? Here in our little square drawn with chalk...

**Comment male pedestrian**

What do you mean? Like politically?

**Comment female journalist**

Yes, that too, but...

**Comment male pedestrian**

Hang on, what is this? An interrogation of some sort?

**Comment female journalist**

No, no, much simpler. Don't worry. Look here.

What we've sketched on the ground here is Ruth Wolf-Rehfeldt's artwork 'Where do you stand' from the late 70s. I'd call it a space-time-life-destiny graph. It's probably the simplest analysis and coaching tool out there. Afterwards, you'll see your life more clearly, and it only takes 4 steps. Do you want to know more about yourself?

**Comment male pedestrian**

Well, I'm not sure but yeah, go on, I'll give it a go.

**Comment female journalist**

Great. Let's get started.

**Original music sound: Sag mir, wo du stehst, Oktoberklub 1967**

*So backwards or forwards, you must decide.*

**Comment female journalist**

If you think you're always lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time - well, not this second with me, but in life in general - then according to Ruth Wolf-Rehfeldt's logic, you're a candidate for the first square at the top right here.

**Siri-Voice**

"THE RIGHT TIME AT THE RIGHT SPOT. Welcome to paradise."

**Comment male pedestrian**

I'm not sure.

**Comment female journalist**

Ah, what a shame. I'd have been really curious to meet and have a chat with someone so lucky in real life. But never mind. This square doesn't really describe your life, so let's move on to the next part of our little game.

**Original music sound: Sag mir, wo du stehst, Oktoberklub 1967**

*because if you go in circles, you'll get left behind*



**Comment female journalist**

Perhaps you have the feeling - now or at times - that you're in the wrong place at the right time. In that case, Wolf-Rehfeldt recommends that you go to the second square, at the top left.

**Siri-Voice**

"THE RIGHT TIME AT THE WRONG SPOT. The grass is always greener on the other side."

**Comment male pedestrian**

Yeah, right, you can say that again!

**Comment female journalist**

Everyone's been there... You're in the right shop, but then you end up choosing the wrong queue at the checkout.

**Comment male pedestrian**

True.

**Comment female journalist**

Maybe you, too, have thoughts like the ones the East German artist Ruth Wolf-Rehfeldt might have had, namely of being born in the right century but in the wrong country? Kind of like a different version of "in the wrong place at the right time". But let's just move on.

**Comment male pedestrian**

OK, I'm all set...

**Comment female journalist**

Third time lucky! Maybe you can identify more with the next box...

**Siri-Voice**

"THE WRONG TIME AT THE RIGHT SPOT"

**Comment female journalist**

What do you say? If you like this one, you might want to jump down here to the right.

**Siri-Voice**

Sorry, we're already closed.

**Comment male pedestrian**

Oh, what a shame.

**Comment female journalist**

Yeah, who hasn't been there: someone, somewhere has always marked the territory before you. Even with the whole 'it's high time' climate debate - it makes you wish you were born a little earlier, doesn't it?

**Comment male pedestrian**

... Well, yeah, sure, but I mean...

**Comment female journalist**

Ok. If that's not really a match either, there's only one option left: the last, the fourth square...

**Siri-Voice**

"THE WRONG TIME AT THE WRONG SPOT"

**Comment male pedestrian**

Maybe, occasionally, well yes

**Comment female journalist**

Then you have to jump to the 4th square, down here on the left.

**Siri-Voice**

Rien ne va plus, back to the start.

**Comment male pedestrian**

Oh no.

**Comment female journalist**

And what brings you here? Do you feel as if you're suffering from a chronic case of bad luck? Murphy's Law over and over again?

**Comment male pedestrian**

Hm, yeah.

**Comment female journalist**

Or is it a profound unease cause as there is "no right life in the wrong one", as Adorno puts it! Or is it an unease with a world full pigheaded people, or "concrete heads", as the artist Ruth Wolf-Rehfeldt repeatedly bemoaned?

**Comment male pedestrian**

Yes, I mean, who doesn't think the same way?

**Original music sound: Sag mir, wo du stehst, Oktoberklub 1967**

*Your silence shadows your own greatness, believe me when I say your life will lack sense.*

**Comment female journalist**

But what do you do with this insight? It's no way to live, is it?

**Original music sound: Sag mir, wo du stehst, Oktoberklub 1967**

*Your silence shadows your own greatness, believe me when I say your life will lack sense.*

**Comment male pedestrian**

... maybe it can't be changed. That's just the way it is, isn't it?

**Comment female journalist**

No, simply putting your hands in your pockets and burying your head in the sand, leaving fate to fate - that's not an option.

You know, the typewriter artist Ruth Wolf Rehfeldt came up with an idea on this issue half a century ago: Whenever you can't go on, when you don't know what to do, when there is a problem or conflict, when you have to sort things out,... you should let off steam at your typewriter. Go ahead and experiment, be artistic! You don't believe me? Just take a look at her text 'Signs Fiction.' A manifesto for the future based on signs.' Read it!

**Comment male pedestrian**

“‘TYPE YOUR OWN ART’ IS MY SPECIAL INVITATION TO PEOPLE WANTING TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES IN AN ARTISTIC MODE FOR THE PURPOSE OF BECOMING, LIVING AND ALTERING FACTS MORE CONSCIOUSLY.

**Comment female journalist**

In my opinion, the greatest advantage of this form of expression is that it makes it possible to pursue any idea or concern immediately.

**Comment male pedestrian**

"PROVIDED A TYPEWRITER IS AT HAND, IT'S RELATIVELY EASY FOR EVERYONE TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS, OR TO TRY TO EXPLAIN OR SOLVE CERTAIN PHENOMENA... PROBLEMS AND THINGS" .... Hm, interesting!

**Comment female journalist**

Well, it's a very creative problem-solving strategy, isn't it? Who knows, maybe we'll all end up in the right place at the right time after all!?