

# Janet Mondana's private Holocaust Memorial

Art performance with installation at Kulturhof, Prenzlauerberg, Berlin. oct. 2th 1998

## The artist

Born in Antwerp of jewish parents in 1944. Her mother and father died in Auschwitz. She was raised by flemish farmers, got a catholic education. At 12 she was sent to a jewish school, but for religion to have an influence on her it was too late. She decided to live without religion the way she lived without mother, without father.

## The symbols

The triangles the artist builds are formed with the sticks she usually dances with. The ORIGINAL Janet Mondana HOOPLA STICK<sup>®</sup>, this time, serves for representing triangles in the different colours used by the Nazis to label their victims: the mentally retarded, the physically handicapped, the homosexuals, the Roma and Sinti and of course the jewish people who had to wear the star of David, two yellow triangles called 'judenstern'. The white rose used at the end of the ceremony stands for the whole of the german resistance.

## The date

By organizing this event on the evening of oct. 2th it is consciously linked to the german national holiday (Tag der Einheit) on oct 3th.

## The location

The intimate courtyard of Kulturhof accentuates the 'privateness' of this rather political art performance. Since the artist lives in Paris, any place in Berlin is symbolically sufficient.

## The aim

To inspire the Germans to organize similar private Holocaust Memorials at the evening before the national 'unification'-celebration.

## The profit

The installation that results from this art performance is for sale. The profit of that deal goes to Amnesty International.

## The personal note

„I dance to my private Holocaust Memorial because it's my way to communicate with the death. I'm a survivor (not only from the holocaust), so I dance because I'm alive! When I am in Berlin I am a living holocaust Mahnmahl“.

J.M.

