

BERLIN 1989–2015

Memories
of
a day

Monique Renault / Vouvoula Skoura


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VAT Edition

 VisualArtistsTeam

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November 2015, Athens Greece

From: Vouvoula Skoura

Subject: my dear Monique, I am attaching this e-mail as an **Epilogue...**

To: Monique Renault

As you know, I have tried to design a kind of book... my memories with you in Berlin in '89... I was looking at our photos... the newspapers that we bought ... but mainly –it is like a movie that I have seen in the past- I remember a part of it, a part of these days, but never the full movie...Yes, yes, I remember the two girls... we went for coffee with them... I remember well...one was from Leipzig ...we discussed -among other things- the famous typography of Leipzig... I also remember a little of our conversation... trying to understand how they lived there...and they probably had the same questions...two different options...two different worlds...

Since then I have visited Berlin twice ...and I was looking for the coffee-house in the former East Berlin as we had gone there for a tea... somewhere opposite the Humboldt University, when we left the Pergamon Museum ...Now the famous Unter den Linden is completely different...

My dear Monique, in this period of time here in Greece I would say that we are living in a surreal European situation...- yes, yes. I prefer an artistic term. Changes as a broken image. From joy...to grief... Perhaps that is why my images, I designed and put together, precisely reflect the variety of my feelings from joy...to grief... So... I'm leaving them as "plans- variations of emotions"...

As I conclude the design of this book...I am looking again at your wonderful images...the tranquility in development...from pencil to colours...and I want to thank you for you remembering me, so beautiful...

Anyway, during this period I am in agony for us, I mean ALL of us We'll see...

with my love, vv

MONIQUE RENAULT



VOUVOLA SKOURA



Monique Renault is an independent maker of animated films. She started out by making films with social themes (feminism, anti-religion and anti-militarist) mixed with humour. In later work she has focused on cultural themes like dance and quotations of celebrities, cultural periods and genres. The humour remained.

Her films are shown all over the world.

Monique Renault has won many awards, among which a Golden Bear in Berlin.

Recently her work was shown as l'art émancipé in Centre Pompidou in Paris.

Vouvoula Skoura* is a visual artist-film director. Her works have been presented in international Festivals and Universities in more than fifty cities.

Awards and Commendations:

Inner Migration (1984).

Skoria Fotos (1989).

Black Moon (1998).

Etel Adnan: Words in exile (2008).

The Greek Graphic Designers Association awarded her its Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009

**Vouvoula Skoura is also co-founder of Visual Artist Team "VAT"*

Memo
B E R L I N
ries of
1 9 8 9 - 2 0 1 5
a day



9 11



November **2014** – April **2015**

CORRESPONDENCES, PHOTOS,

thoughts,
paintings
and
digital art
by
e-mails.

two different options...two different worlds...

just before the End...



On 04 Nov 2014, at 22:50 Vouvoula <vouvoula@otenet.gr> wrote:

dear Monique, first of all I hope that you are well,
among your grandchildren...

These days I had you in my mind, as 25 years ago we were together in Berlin... what memories... And Europe has changed so much since then. I was thinking -if you agree- to exchange our memories as a letter or a drawing, or a collage, or anything that comes to our mind... I think that you told me that you have some photos... we can use our portraits then and now... [does n't matter that we are older...] the most important thing is that we have our memories... and we can send them to our friends. I feel that it is nice to keep alive this strange friendship. A friendship which started during such a historical event...
Love, vouvoula

From: monique van dijk-renault <mmarenault@gmail.com>
Date: 10 Νοεμβρίου 2014 3:23:52 MM GMT+02:00

Sweet Vouvoula,
Of course, now like 25 years lag, We remember. Our unique friendship. Absolutely unique. I need some time to find the pictures. I and i have to take care of Jochgem because of some health problems, and then, I'll be yours... Love, M.

From: monique van dijk-renault<mmarenault@gmail.com>
Subject: Amsterdam
Date: 25 Νοεμβρίου 2014 10:59:29 ΠΜ GMT+02:00
To: paraskevi skoura<vouvoula@otenet.gr>

Dearest Vouvoula. I hope you are well,
The last weeks were very busy. I was in Portugal for 1 week, and then I had the children quite often... It is always nice, but with those 2, I do not succeed to do anything else than taking care of them!

Subject: Re: vv/
Date: 25 Νοεμβρίου 2014 12:38:54 MM GMT+02:00
To: paraskevi skoura<vouvoula@otenet.gr>

What I would like to do, is use the photos I took then, and make a kind of collage, and paint it... On a big frame, as I told you before. What I could do is mail you the work in progress. It will take time, because I love oil and it has to dry... It also gives me the time to think and watch... Also because I have the children quite often, I have to take care they do not want help me very much... It takes time! But I'll keep you informed! I'll always keep in touch with you!
XXX M.

On 25 Nov 2014, at 10:47. Vouvoula <vouvoula@otenet.gr> wrote:

I my dearerst monique,

On 25 Nov 2014, at 10:47. Vouvoula <vouvoula@otenet.gr> wrote:

my dearerst monique,
how nice it was that I received your mail...

What I had in my mind was a kind of a Diary...
my memories plus some photos... with blank paragraphs...
probably to be exchanged with your memories or with a sketch of yours...

but of course you can do what do you like... and we will see...
I am thinking of keeping all our emails from now on, as a part in our Diary...
as a form of style Letters...
what do you think?
as soon as I make a sample of a page I will sent you... love vv

From: monique van dijk-renault<mmarenault@gmail.com>
Subject: Amsterdam
Date: 25 Νοεμβρίου 2014 10:59:29 ΠΜ GMT+02:00
To: paraskevi skoura<vouvoula@otenet.gr>

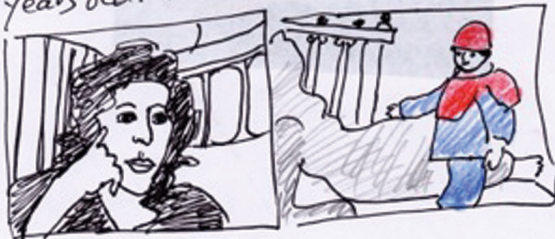
Dearest Vouvoula. I hope you are well,
The last weeks were very busy. I was in Portugal for 1 week, and then I had the children quite often... It is always nice, but with those 2, I do not succeed to do anything else than taking care of them!
I am thinking of doing a painting, at least 60 x 80... But I wonder if it is a good idea... ?????? What do you have in mind in fact?
Let me know, because I START VERY SOON...
Lots of love, I thing of every day and especially night!
XXXM.

From: monique van dijck-renault
 Subject: memories 1
 Date: 01 December 2014 12:42:40 MM GMT+02:00

Dearest Vovoxla. ①

Since a couple of weeks you asked me to remember our days in Berlin, days where we met, I have been looking to the pictures I made and little by little forgotten memories are coming back...

I was invited - like you - to take part to a short film festival with my film "Pas a deux." Tomas, my son was 12 years old and his father Jochiem, cameraman for VPRO, a dutch T.V. production was staying home with him. And when he was asked to go to Berlin to cover the "Evenements", he had to say "no..." "Monique is there, in Berlin!" I think I arrived on the 7th, and met a German woman, filmmaker, and her son, 5 years old. We went to the big TV tower, in the



middle of East Berlin.
 I had some friends in Berlin where I went often in the end of 60s.

I met my friend Sis. I needed shoes ② and we went together shopping. In the evening, I went to a bar with 2 friends from the festival, working also in animation. I was very tired and I remember I felt down, and my friends had to take me back to the hotel. The next morning, I met you and we decided to go together to see the wall. I think...



It was very crowded...



A yellow small paper, No. 9 11
For entry...

6. Europäisches
Kurzfilm
Festival
Berlin

9 11



...and then
somewhere we met with Monique...

I do not remember... ...and it was so cold ...

I was walking in the morning ...alone
But yes, I was there...

A yellow small paper, **No. 9 11**
For entry...

6. Europäisches

I do not remember... ...and it was so cold...

A large room, ...and after...

In breakfast... we heard something...

Between warm croissants and coffee...

and that was probably when I saw you...
alone like me... just me from Greece

Kurz... Kurz... Kurz... film...

Yes, probably I saw you then

I do not remember... ...and it was so cold...

Found ourselves along with thousands of others...
magically led by our feet

there... at the end of this dramatic history...

We were there... and it was so cold...

all around... a Babel...
Unknown-famous languages...

to Fall... it Will fall?

The voices warm our hearts...

two strangers young women... and so together...

yes there in Babel...



Kurz... Kurz... Kurz... film...

I saw years later... the my small yellow piece of paper

9 11
For entry...

To **6. Europäisches**

9 11... 1989...

Monique... take a photo, ...look, I am knocking down the wall...

We were there... and it no longer felt cold...

Monique... Let's see the Museum...

The other lost homelands...

[*Now that I am thinking... what madness...*

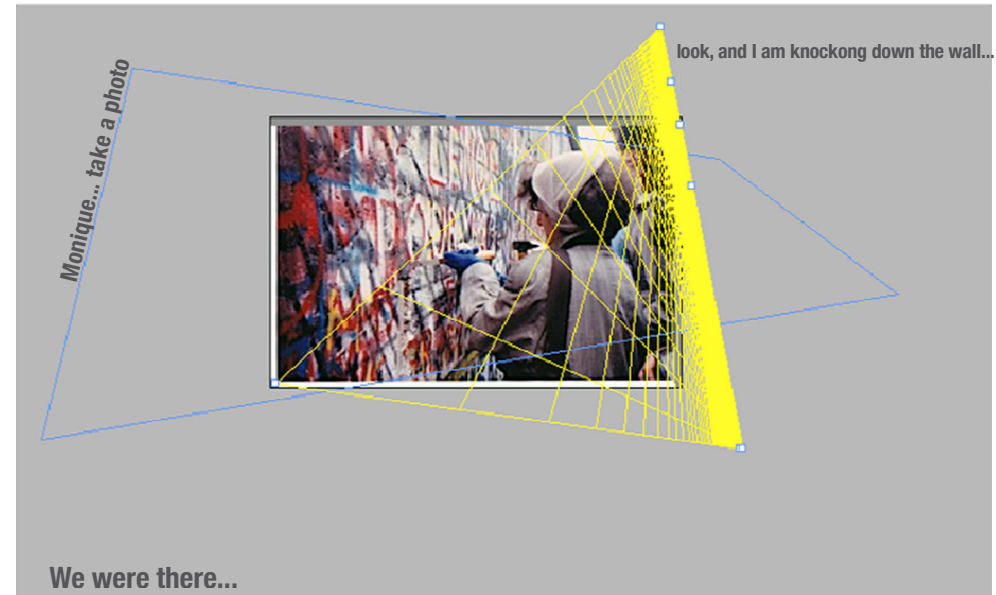
*to enter East Berlin took an hour...
the empty roads... a tea somewhere
in Unter den Linden...
and the Museum was open!!!*

*Exodus to West Berlin took three hours or more
All wanted to go out to the west...]*

Years pass... photos remain

And a warm friendship... 25 years now...

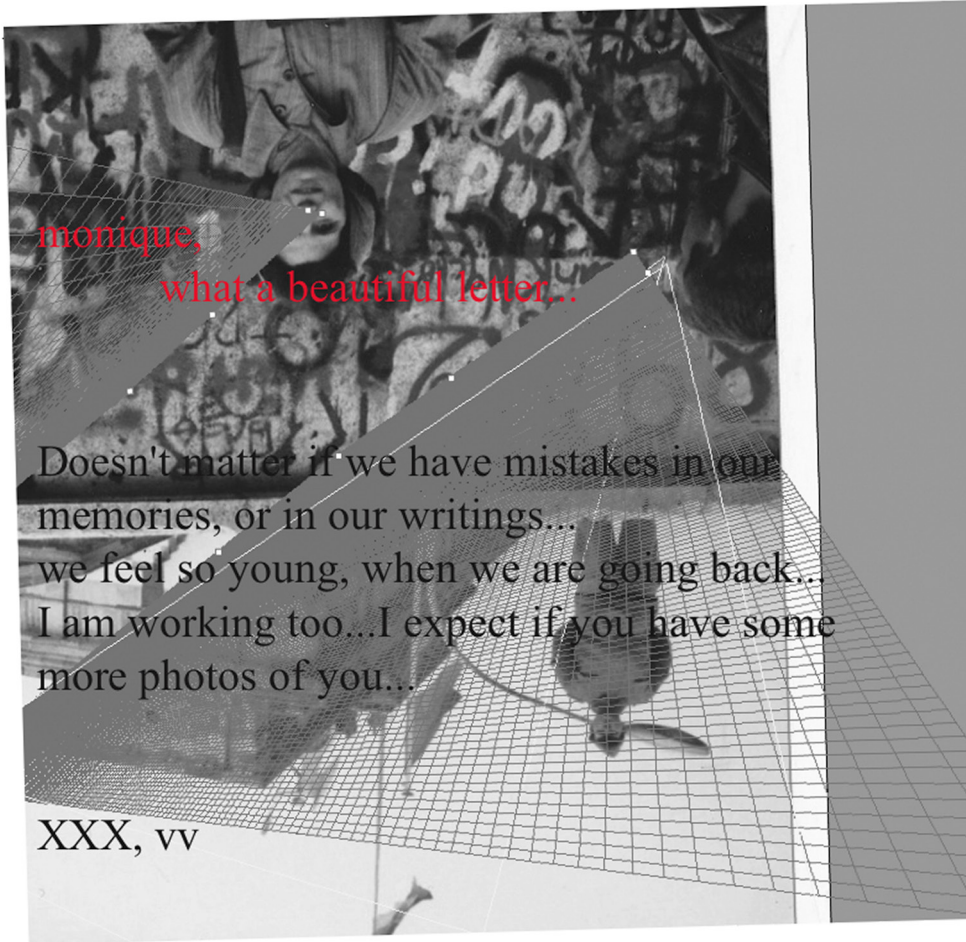
Vouvoula, 2014



From: Youvoula
Subject:
Date: 28 November 2014 9:56:41 MM GMT+02:00
To: monique van dijck-renault

monique,
it is so nice the two different approach
please can to send me, some photos of you...from berlin ...wv





and it was so cold...





Date: 02 Δεκεμβρίου 2014 4:53:12 MM GMT+02:00
 To: paraskevi skoura <vousvoula@otenet.gr>



monique-monique, don't worry
 all this is a pleasure to us, at least to me

First of all we will see what will be the final form this exchange...

I have a lot in my mind, but not yet a clear idea.
 I, this mysterious painting like very much... and at the end we can print captions...
 XXX, vv



Project for a painting 100X50.





From joy...to grief...'14-'15
and my view







West Berlin, 9th November

the beginning of the fall





monique with... the festival director...



Impossible to stop... I like it so much...
It's a great inspiration! Thank you, for giving it!

Dearest Vouwoula.

After a long Silence, due to some health problems, at last, I am able to continue...

But before I got hill, I did one painting I send you, and started an other big one. the problem - one of the problems - when I have the children here, I have to forget my paintings... they love to be here, but it becomes "their" domaine!

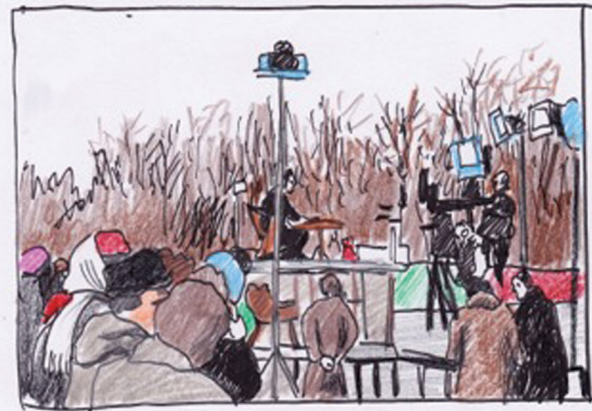
I remember I went to East Berlin, but I do not think you were with me. the train to East was nearly empty. But At the Station from East to West, that was an other story.



And I took the train back to West...
I never saw anything like that! So crowded, but in joy and happiness.



When we went to the Mur together, one of the thing surprised me very much was to see how many T.V. were present. the presentors were very comfortably seating on high platforms... Especially CNN, looked to me quite kitch!





West Berlin, 9th November



East Berlin, 10th November...

I am now starting to write the following text of our meeting.
I send it to you as soon as I can. Lots of love, M.

From East to West Berlin

10th November, 1989



East Berlin, 10th November, 1989



*...when we left
the Pergamon Museum ..*

*Now the famous Unter den Linden
is completely different...*





Mstislav Rostropovich gave an impromptu concert at Checkpoint Charlie after the Berlin Wall fell in November 1989.



*Dearest. You must be very busy...
But I wanted to show you a change I have
made. In fact, I did not like the big black
shadow, and changed it for the figure of
the man who gave you his hammer.*

*Give me some news, especially your view
of the politic... XXXM.*



as to say...if we were now...

Monique then...



Monique Renault / Vouvoula Skoura

M E M O R I E S O F A D A Y



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