



Stefaan van Biesen

Walking in silence and stepping lightly on the ground are two rules with which Belgian artist, **Stefaan van Biesen** frequently asks his companions and participants to comply. Today's walk is an exception as we step away from the activities of Made of Walking in La Romieu in south west France, for which Stefaan is one of the organisers. Eschewing the car since 1994, and travelling lightly and slowly through Europe, Stefaan styles himself as a flaneur, observing human movement and interaction. Walking is what he does, whether it is running daily errands, making artwork, or allowing his mind to relax. 22'44" 10.7MB

Notes from the podcast interview by **Andrew Stuck**: Recorded in August 2017 on a walk to close to La Romieu in south west France, during the Made of Walking event, of which Stefaan was one of the organisers. Published in January 2019 on <http://www.talkingwalking.net>

Find out more about who took part in Made of Walking 2017 <http://www.themilena.com/pdf-files-projects-the-milena-principle/List-fLa-Romieu-MOW-2017.pdf> and how you can join Made of Walking 2019 from 1st - 7th July <http://www.themilena.com/made-of-walking>

View Stefaan's own work: <http://www.stefaanvanbiesen.com/walks.html> & <http://www.stefaanvanbiesen.com/made-of-walking.html> He styles himself as a "Flaneur" <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/f/flaneur>

La Romieu is a starting point for pilgrims on the Camino de Santiago de Compostelo <https://www.france-voyage.com/cities-towns/la-romieu-11042.htm> Pilgrimage to Santiago https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camino_de_Santiago

Peter Jaeger - Professor of English & Creative Writing - and a practising poet: [https://pure.roehampton.ac.uk/portal/en/persons/peter-jaeger\(595111e5-3b5e-4dfc-a217-3846ed3f1008\).html/](https://pure.roehampton.ac.uk/portal/en/persons/peter-jaeger(595111e5-3b5e-4dfc-a217-3846ed3f1008).html/)

Stefaan is member of an artist collaboration Milena Principle that includes Geert Vermeire: <http://www.themilena.com/index.html> - Stefaan says that it sparks something magical. Geert was interviewed for Talking Walking - you can listen to the podcast here: <https://www.talkingwalking.net/geert-vermeire-talking-walking/> Sergiu Celibidache is a composer and musician under whose pupilage, Geert studied musicology.

Stefaan is a former rock musician, influenced by Roxy Music https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roxy_Music , and now composing electronica, soundscapes, and scores to audio based walking pieces works. <https://b-hive.bandcamp.com/album/hythlodaeus>

Since 1994 Stefaan and his wife (Annemie Mestdagh <https://animartgreece.eu/2017/en/tutors/mestdagh/>) have eschewed the motor car, travelling through Europe at a slower pace. Both practice Tai Chi Chuan and Chi Kung.

Stefaan is particularly interested in observing movement as people walk consciously in silence. He encourages people to walk 'with their mind' and sees walking as more than just physical or spiritual, paying a homage to the landscape.

Stefaan mentions his "Letters to a Tree" <http://www.stefaanvanbiesen.com/pdf-files-web/letters-to-a-tree-illustrated.pdf> and "Library of Walks" <http://www.stefaanvanbiesen.com/library-of-walks.html> , the latter is on permanent display at the Botanic Garden in Brasilia: <http://www.jardimbotanico.df.gov.br/>

Projects since 1990: <http://www.stefaanvanbiesen.com/utopia.html> ; <http://www.stefaanvanbiesen.com/silence.html> & <http://www.stefaanvanbiesen.com/flyways.html>

Stefaan presented 'Enter the Triangle' at Made of Walking, La Romieu - see this video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wXrmQ30usPE> & <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqc5fpCFAwA> , and Meander (2017) in Nicosia <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RSjucYlgPTA>



Steffaan's recommendations for walks:

Autumn walking in the Istria region of Croatia <https://www.komoot.com/guide/34211/hiking-in-istria>

Walking at night in Venice <https://europeupclose.com/article/the-perfect-nighttime-walk-in-venice-italy/>

Lisbon as another walking city <https://www.gpsmycity.com/gps-tour-guides/lisbon-515.html>

An imaginary walk - walk in a town and come back later and reflect on it