



PIERO HELICZER

Commissaires d'exposition : Rose & Wynn Heliczer, Sophie Vinet  
19/06/15 - 20/09/15

Born in Rome in 1937 Piero Heliczer (poet, publisher, filmmaker, actor, musician ...) died in Préaux-du-Perche in the Orne in 1993, where he is buried.

At the age of five, in 1942, he was an actor in Italy for the film Bengasi, before leaving to live in the United States with his mother where he studied literature and linguistics for a time at Harvard. In 1957 in Paris he founded his publishing house: The Dead Language Press. There he published his own poems but also those of other authors such as Gregory Corso, Jack Smith, Angus Maclise, Anselm Hollo...

Piero Heliczer's poems are written in a style that evokes 17th century English literature through the use of metaphors and juxtapositions of strange images. Considered a "baby-beat", he is in continuity with the writers of the Beat-Generation, whom he published and frequented throughout his life.

Piero Heliczer's poems have been published in numerous magazines, they are also the subject of publications in the form of collections, first by Trigram (The Soap Opera) in 1967; Gerard Malanga, who devoted a special issue of the magazine Little Ceasar to him in 1979, published the anthology A purchase in the white botanica in 2001 by Granary books.

At the beginning of the sixties he travelled between Paris, London and New York, it was during this period that he discovered the department of Orne and the Perche region through the intermediary of the artist Hundertwasser, with whom he stayed for a while at the place called La Picaudière.

In Brighton in 1961 he directed his first film Autumn Feast in collaboration with the director Jeff Keen; he will then be very close to Andy Warhol and his entourage. At the same time, he appeared in the films Flaming Creatures by Jack Smith and Couch by Andy Warhol.

In 1965, Piero Heliczer filmed the first appearance of Velvet Underground on television in Wamter Cronkite's show for CBS news. It is his commitment to experimental cinema that led him to found the Paris Filmmakers Cooperative in order to present his films as well as those of other filmmakers including Tony Conrad, Paul Sharits, Andy Warhol, Jonas Mekas, Stan Brakhage...

At the end of the sixties, he bought a house in Préaux-du-Perche, at a place called Les Fiches, which he renamed "Notre Dame des Fiches" (Our Lady of the Wasteland) while he was shooting his film (now disappeared) Sainte Thérèse. He then divided his time between New York, London, Amsterdam, Préaux-du-Perche... until the end of his life.

<http://www.paris-art.com/piero-heliczer/>