Laura Horelli
Mass- and miscommunication; interviews and re-enactments
by Christy Lange

In the 1960s Andy Warhol had an idea for a film called Lunch, in which two people would sit down to lunch, eat two different meals and talk constantly to each other about entirely divergent subjects, creating a cacophony of non-communicative language where words come tumbling out like an indigestible meal. Although Warhol never made the film, he predicted an age when mass communication would create miscommunication and the circulation of information would be far from a perfect circle.

Laura Horelli’s video and photographic works emulate this condition, in a world where private thoughts become crinkled, crooked and dispersed as soon as they are put into words. Her early work investigated mobile phone use in her native Helsinki, the city with the most mobile phones per capita. Street Interviews Helsinki (1999) is a montage of interviews that hint at the babel of a city that talks more than ever, but which often fails to communicate. Horelli’s other interviews interrogate systems that produce an increase in ‘dialogue’, but which also bring along all the things that the term implies – that the language of such dialogue might be manufactured, edited or misdirected. Horelli manipulates her first-hand conversations into second- and third-hand productions; conversations become interviews, interviews become scripts, and almost no one speaks in his or her native language...