





not just for intellectuals

In a conversation we had recently with the French philosopher Régis Debray, he confessed to us that he thought Janus was far too attractive and seductive, by no means could it be a medium for intellectual work. The artistic cover and the amount of images impeded him to write for it. Ironically some months earlier the Belgian curator, Jan Hoet, told us that Janus was a very nice magazine, but that it should invest more on the visual side with a greater focus on the artworks.

We enjoy being somewhere in between these two positions, as we believe that it is the place to be, especially for a young editorial board, moved by the perception that traffic here is dense, and still somewhat underserved.

Our boldness is a *datum*, that is not necessarily always welcomed, but is also a sincere invitation to play. A playfulness that helps us release the publication from the expectations of presenting discourses that must have an impact on a single specific field of research. We highly value such work, but we cannot manage to do it without being a bad imitation. We prefer a holistic approach. That is why Janus is not an academic magazine, as Debray would advise it to be, and maybe is not even an art one, as Hoet envisions it to be. To us it is a fold that for however much we cut open is never entirely unfolded. We want Janus to expose its unorthodox construction, and to follow the vanishing points, that its unusual perspectives open up.

Actually we reached the point that we wanted to convince ourselves and our readers that our project is about covering long distances, so we decided to do something extraordinary and at the same time very normal if one wishes to really see beyond his or her street: we started running for real.

In December 2006, after having completed Janus 21, with the pleasure of seeing it have a positive reception, we indulged in some feasting that put us a bit off track. So we decided to start training for any of the half-marathons that would show up in May. In parallel to the preparation of this issue of Janus, a group of editors did late evening jogs. Finally on the 13th of May 2007, the newly founded Janus Marathon Team, ran the Maastricht-Visé 21km half marathon, crossing the border between Holland and Belgium.

