

Mission Impossible

Fideelia-Signe Roots

2011

An attempt to hire an unemployed man to surf online for money in my solo show

1st attempt 4.05. 2011.

2nd attempt 4.07. 2011. Two months later still nobody!

21.07 Still nothing. I am tired, slightly depressed and unable to continue.

3rd attempt 26.07 2011. Unemployed guy Juhan, username machovend agrees.

5.09. 2011. A day before opening of the show Juhan lets me down and tells me he will not show up because of personal problems.

A letter to the men in internet portal rate.ee

Conditions: lower education and location in Tallinn

Hello!

I am an artist working on the project about internet dating portals. My exhibition will be in Draakoni gallery Tallinn 5.- 17. 09. 2011. I am planning to build there a room where the real rate.ee user would sit and surf online. Visitors could meet him and make photos with him. Salary is 120 EUR, which makes 10 EUR per day. Exhibition is open for 12 days. Let me know if you would like to participate.

Salary

I got a financial support from Cultural Endowment and the salary was included. The amount of money seemed fair, since the person didn't have to do anything but sitting and surfing online in the warm comfy room. He could do his own business there, look for job for example. Some Estonian open air market sellers earn 13 EUR for 9 working hours and this is hard work. In the gallery there are 7 working hours per day.

Men who got the letter and what did they answer. Most of them ignored me anyway.

1. **lasnakas**

2. **SINIER**
3. **jaanoma**
4. **Rait-olen** – Hi! I will participate. Can one more person join in? *NB! He disappeared soon. Started to ignore my letters.*
5. **Yllujannu** – I am not interested.
6. **Margus01**
7. **Mrs** – I don't know what to say!!!
8. **guzja20**
9. **pisike20** – I can't come because I don't live in Tallinn and I have got a job already.
10. **pasi**
11. **mella1980**
12. **valdo21**
13. **karotse**
14. **erk27**
15. **pulho**
16. **kaits55**
17. **machovend (Juhan)** – You think I am so cheap. I will not work for less than 25 EUR daily. What kind of art do you do? Maybe you want to date me? I would agree but I can't renovate buildings. I can pose nude, if you want to. We should actually meet and discuss! In the bed, if you wish! *NB! Later on he suddenly changed his mind and agreed. We met up and decided he will come to the gallery 5.09. He never did.*
18. **karuuzo**
19. **kirs734** – (the guy is a cook on the ship) It depends on if the other cook agrees to work for four weeks without break. As far as I am concerned, I am not afraid of stress, I take it as a challenge. Being on the sea for four weeks wouldn't cause problems to me. Even though I have got quite important position at work, I am also diplomatic and will not push this through in the higher instances. I will let you know about it on 12th of July. Cheers, Joel. *NB! The other cook didn't want to work for 4 weeks, so that Joel could participate in my project. He never came of course.*
20. **Koputa** - Unfortunately I will be in Saaremaa at the same time, otherwise I would have agreed.
21. **srekike** - I can't, I have a work.
22. **mina73**

23. **terror2003**
24. **tarmo25**
25. **reibo1989** - It is an interesting offering, but I can't join because I don't live in Tallinn and I haven't got time to do it besides my work.
26. **aiku1990** – are you kidding me?:D:D:D:D:D
27. **Janno81**
28. **gurts29**
29. **moriz**
30. **karistet**
31. **hpsmees** – my daily salary is 200 EUR and I will not make fool of myself. Your proposal equals to the situation, where I would ask you to have sex with me for 5 EUR. Would you do it?

5. 09. 2011

Juhan, who had all the time promised to show up turned out to be untrustworthy. He told me in phone that he is depressed because his ex-wife had a baby unexpectedly and his ex's husband abuses him mentally and physically so that he is forced to move away from Tallinn. He had blocked his rate.ee account by the evening.

I made the offering to the art critic, who was just looking for the job as a guard in the art gallery. Job in my show would have been much easier. In the first place he seemed to be OK with that idea but later e-mailed me: "I am not gonna play fool. I am looser anyway and now I should sit in your exhibition and pretend to be poorly educated jerk. Some dignity should remain. You need to find someone more realistic.". He recommended I should hire some guy from behind the shop but gallerist said she never would agree with that. It is not great idea to let total stranger- maybe sick and maybe lunatic - to hang around among expensive art pieces.

My friend Kärt Mikli who works in the museum as an artist, asked around among her friends. Some were unemployed and some just had lots of free time and no money. Nobody agreed. Kärt communicated in greater length with her friend Mr. Nice who calls himself unemployed lawyer. Kärt was surprised that Mr. Nice had a notebook and daily commitments because he didn't have them earlier. After Mr. Nice had read my exhibition conception he was pleased he had not agreed to take part as an "unemployed tramp and asocial.".

6. sept. 2011

Opening. Kärt sat there with her kid instead of the unemployed man.

7. sept. 2011

I rose the salary to 14 EUR per day. It is higher than open air market seller's salary. Finally the free-lancer artist Toomas Altnurme and his Korean friend (young female) agreed to work in my exhibition.

Korean girl was very happy and grateful for such a great opportunity. She is able to do her own stuff online in the warm room and gets paid for it. She was aware about my conception but still doesn't find this job humiliating.

It came as a surprise to me that so many people call unemployed poorly educated men tramps, losers, jerks and asocials. I felt really depressed because of that attitude. This is sure one of the reasons why so many people move away from Estonia.

Conclusion

To find unemployed man from online dating portal either from real life to do nothing for money is a mission impossible.