

## **SilentCell Network**

### ***Ich Lubbe Berlin!***

Berlin, 27 February 1933. Adolf Hitler has just become Chancellor, but Germany remains, at least officially, a Republic. At 9.25 pm a fire station receives a worrying alert: the Reichstag, the seat of the German parliament, is on fire. When the police arrive, in the building they find Marinus Van Der Lubbe, a Dutch revolutionary Communist who has recently arrived in Germany. The next day, Hitler passes the Reichstag Fire Decree, appealing to the state of emergency, and suspending the majority of civil rights. Sentenced to death, Van der Lubbe was decapitated on 10 January 1934.

12 December 2005. At 10.39 Mare Van der Lubbe (the pseudonym of Mare Bulc, member of the Slovenian artistic collective SilentCell Network) reenacts the Reichstag fire. It is not a canonical re-enactment, for obvious reasons: any attempt to stage it literally would actually be another attack. This is why SilentCell Network opted for a “symbolic” re-enactment, re-interpreting the Reichstag fire in the light of a present that has much in common with the situation generated by the original event. Like 1934 Germany, we are the children of a terrorist attack, and we live in a state of emergency, too.

## **Domenico Quaranta**