

Press Release

PLEURER ET BONHEUR

18 December 2009 - 28 February 2010

Private View: Thursday 17 November 2009

Pleurer et Bonheur, two points of view on current issues on Brussels art scene - from an insider, Walt Van Beek, and from an outsider, Silvio Salgado.

The idea is to construct the exhibition through a dialogue of views. Both curators independently chose artists and works - as points of view to the confrontations that we are faced with in society, politics, culture.

The exhibition Pleurer et Bonheur brings together seven artists from Belgium, France and the Netherlands: Michel Couturier, Simona Denicolai & Ivo Provoost, Korneel Devillé, Jörn Quandt, Philippe Van Wolputte, and Mehdi-Georges Lahlou. They work with a variety of media, from drawing to site-specific installation and performance - and also design. As the curators of the event, Walt Van Beek and Silvio Salgado, argue, the exhibition aims at promoting dialogue rather than serving a polished end-product.

Pleurer et Bonheur opens at the Vienna International Apartment in Brussels at rue de l'Etuve/ Stoofstraat 81 A13, from 18 December 2009 to 28 February 2010. The exhibition is organised in collaboration with another independent venue in Brussels, the Wai Wai Space.

The artists:

Michel Couturier

Born in 1957, Belgium, he lives and works in Brussels. Couturier makes use of variety of mediums including drawing, site-specific installation and video. In the current exhibition, the artists presents a series of drawings (a selection), transferred into a video image projected directly on the wall surface. The negative space created by the cast-out images, a prelude to an ever growing imagery that we face daily in urban existence. Solitude, isolation and melancholy seem to follow us into the depth of the image – or rather its negative space. The images became part of the many stories lost within the city's milieu.

Simona Denicolai & Ivo Provoost

Denicolai was born in Italy and Provoost in Belgium, they both live and work in Brussels. Denicolai and Provoost have worked together for over ten years. In their artworks, they make use of a variety of tools available to them - through the net, in their urban milieu, or in any social, cultural and political activities related to a given space. Language takes on primordial role in their artworks by questioning its cultural and political implication. In Pleurer et Bonheur, they present three drawings and an 'animated' street light object* - the work titled Trickster makes allusion to one's most secretive self.

*Courtesy of the Aliceday Gallery

VIENNA INTERNATIONAL APARTMENT

Rue de l'Etuve/ Stooftstraat 81 A13, 1000 Brussels
www.vienna-international-apartment.net

Korneel Devillé

Born in 1981, Belgium. He lives and works in Brussels. Devillé studied Fine Arts at Sint-Lukas Hogeschool in Brussels. His artworks often relate to a particular space as well as to the tradition of painting. The use of light, found objects and 'unnoticed' interventions became part of the language explored by the artist. At the current exhibition, he projects a graphic image on the wall, with the measurements of the wall's length. By doing so, the artist challenges notions of borders between the indoor and the outdoor space.

Jörn Quandt

Born in 1970, Germany. Quandt is a professional restorer and interior designer. He lives and works in Brussels. Quandt studied architecture at Sint-Lukas Hogeschool in Brussels (1996-2000). For the current exhibition, he found inspiration in a dominant feature of the space, a column sited in an open plan of a multiple use room. The transformation of this single structure makes reference to a classical architectural Doric style. Traditionally without a base, their vertical shafts were fluted with 20 parallel concave grooves. However, here, Quandt only makes use of two single shafts fluted with one parallel concave groove; suggesting infinity of space within the groove - a purity of form and thought.

Phillippe Van Wolputte

Born in 1982, Belgium, he lives and works in Amsterdam (NL). Currently, he is finishing an artist residency in Rijksakademie Amsterdam. Through his artwork, Van Wolputte examines the disuse and obsolescence of urban sites and the possibilities they offer for interventions. Using narrow corridors and holes, he creates new passageways for the public. His work stands in direct opposition to the venue's exhibition space – public versus private. For the current exhibition, Van Wolputte made a new T.P.E.S. – showing the documentation of this Temporary Penetrable Exhibition Space #5. The T.P.E.S.'s are site-specific interventions that occur in vacant disused spaces. Van Wolputte has created T.P.E.S.'s in different cities (Antwerp, Mechelen, Rotterdam, and Brussels) throughout the last 5 years.

Mehdi-Georges Lahlou

Born in 1983, France from a French and Moroccan family. He lives and works in Brussels. Georges Lahlou is currently taking a Master Degree Fine Arts at St-Joost academie, Breda, the Netherlands. Mehdi's artwork explores the relationship between performer and audience, the limits of the body, place of the body and the possibilities of the mind. During the vernissage, the artist does a humoristic performance that questions the stupidity of endurance.

WAI WAI SPACE is an independent art space run by its founders, artists Wouter De Raeve and Walt Van Beek (WoutWalt). The venue opened its doors to the public no longer than nine months ago. However, its contribution to the Brussels art scene has already been significant.

VIENNA INTERNATIONAL APARTMENT (V.I.A.) provides a platform for contemporary arts, bringing together artists from different cultures and backgrounds. V.I.A. is hosted in a private apartment by its founder, artist and independent curator Sílvio Salgado. Salgado aims to challenge the boundaries between private and public space by redefining the private and public nature of the domestic space. V.I.A. changes its location every time the organisers move to a new place. The first exhibition was held in Vienna, Austria, in 2001. Since then, it has run two exhibitions a year, spring and autumn; from 2003 to 2007 in Turku/Helsinki, Finland, and since 2007, at rue de l'Etuve/Stooftstraat 81 A13 in Brussels. V.I.A. is a registered non-profit art association, and it is also involved in organising art events outside the Apartment.