

Kunstfort bij Vijfhuizen

Island for Art and Heritage



Credits: Rachel de Joode, *Flat Nature / Surface Bodies*, 2017 © Courtesy the artist

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Exhibition: October 1st - December 17th - 2017

Alienation and scenery in exhibitions of Rachel de Joode and Kim David Bots, this Fall at the Kunstfort

On Sunday, October 1st, Kunstfort bij Vijfhuizen celebrates the festive opening of two special exhibitions. Since long Rachel de Joode shows new work in the Netherlands with an impressive solo at the Kunstfort "Genieloods". In the concrete fort artist Kim David Bots makes a site-specific installation, following his residency at WIELS in Brussels. In and around the fort there will be presentations by: Toon Fibbe & Laura Wiedijk, Sarah Kamalvand in collaboration with Mahmoud Bakhshi, Jan Hoek and Annika Kappner. On show until December 17th.

Rachel de Joode – Flat Nature / Surface Bodies

Since ten years Rachel de Joode (NL, 1979 – lives in Berlin) has a major solo exhibition in The Netherlands. Kunstfort at Vijfhuizen proudly presents *Rachel de Joode - Flat Nature / Surface Bodies*. In the "Genieloods" and on the island, the artist shows a comprehensive exhibition of new work, including five outdoor sculptures. De Joode was one of the first to combine sculptural objects and photographic prints with references to internet aesthetics. The artist is known for her "sculptural photography", for which she prints and cuts pictures of natural materials in organic forms. De Joode also developed new works in which only the sculptural frame is left. Her flat objects in public space resonate with the omnipresence of image in our contemporary society, but also with the plane surroundings of the Kunstfort. The landscape becomes a "bühne", in which De Joode's images take the lead. But to what extent will nature allow to get reduced to just a frame?

Kim David Bots – The Rant

In the fort the exhibition *Kim David Bots - The Rant* is on show. In this site-specific installation Kim David Bots (NL, 1988) takes "the scenery" as his starting point. The four spaces of the fort are filled with remnants of a game, so it seems; only the scene is left. Paintings, drawings, collages, objects, prints and found footage shape a reference frame without directly referring to something. Starting point are the surroundings of the Kunstfort. With its re-destination, from unusable defense construction to art space, Fort at Vijfhuizen today is an alienating phenomenon amidst the (Vinex) suburbs and the artificial landscape.

Kim David Bots graduated in 2012 in Illustration at the Hogeschool voor de Kunsten Utrecht (HKU). His images play with a tension between applied and autonomous. But even more his practice is an ongoing research – on the meaning of representations, phenomena, materials and signs. The exhibition is his first big solo, shortly following his residency at WIELS in Brussels. Kim David Bots teaches at the HKU, participated in a.o. *The Painted Bird* at Marres (2017), *Prospects & Concepts* 2016 at Art Rotterdam and *Unfair* 2016, and has been nominated for the Koninklijke Prijs voor Vrije Schilderkunst.



Kim David Bots, *Bliksem*, 2015 ©
Courtesy the artist

Interventions: cunning orchids and Iranian waterworks

In addition to the solo exhibitions artists are invited to present continuous interventions in and around the fort, inspired by the overarching Kunstfort theme of “science fiction”.

This fall the Kunstfort welcomes: Toon Fibbe & Laura Wiedijk with *Cloning the Ghost*, Sara Kamalvand with *The Tehran Garden Festival* i.c.w. Mahmoud Bakhshi, Jan Hoek and Annika Kappner.

In the project of Toon Fibbe (NL, 1987) and Laura Wiedijk (NL, 1985) the alienating orchid is presented in all its misleading glory: the beautiful outsider who penetrates herself like an alien. *Cloning the Ghost* investigates the seductive appearance and reproduction strategies of the flower. This visual misguidance is mirrored by the rhetoric of evolutionary economics. The installation in the concrete fortification is warm, humid and dense: overflowing with pulsating (holographic) projected orchids, visual deception, ecology and evolution are central to the work.

The Tehran Garden Festival is a project by Canadian-Iranian architect Sara Kamalvand (Iran, 1975 – lives in Paris and Tehran) about the so-called 'qanats' of Tehran, the capital of Iran. Kamalvand is committed to the redevelopment of these ancient underground water canals. By reviving the historical system, the project seeks an alternative for sustainable conservation of unused urban infrastructures. In her presentation issues about climate change, resource depletion and pollution footprint are related to heritage, conservation and memory. The project consists of a series of ongoing international activities, with the Kunstfort as partner in the Netherlands, in collaboration with artist Mahmoud Bakhshi (Iran, 1977).

Moreover the Kunstfort shows new work by Jan Hoek (NL, 1984). Also *Hypertrophic Abyss* by Annika Kappner (Germany, 1980) is still visible in the trees on the island. The Kunstfort Projects space hosts the ecological art collaboration BEE HEROES.



Credits: Toon Fibbe & Laura Wiedijk, *Cloning the Ghost*, 2017 © Courtesy the artist

Opening and public program

Festive opening on Sunday, October 1st, 15.00. Opening speech 15.30 followed by drinks and music by Abel Minnée. At 16.30 Sara Kamalvand gives a short lecture. Everyone is welcome!

On Tuesday November 7th, 19.30 Toon Fibbe and Laura Wiedijk give a presentation about *Cloning the Ghost*.

On Tuesday November 28th, 19.30 the Kunstfort organizes *From Picture to Image*: a public program with Rachel de Joode and artist collective Itsourplayground from Paris. And on Sunday December 17th the finissage of *Kim David Bots – The Rant* is celebrated with a special (music) program.

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