

Undercurrent

6 May - 12 June 2004

Artists:

Koen De Decker, Anouk De Clercq, Mekhitar Garabedian, Tina Gillen, Geert Goiris

Curators:

Cis Bierinckx and Hans Martens

The artists in UNDERCURRENT will directly interfere with the space at Platform to open a complex environmental discourse about material, substance, form and the experience of perception. The exhibition has been set up as an installation, with each contribution helping to fertilize the others. It focuses on the relation between concrete, mental, virtual and imaginary spaces, yet it is not the surface that interests these artists, but what lies beneath, an invisible stream that relates the works and guides their audience through the confrontational experience of the artists' mind games. UNDERCURRENT is an artistic collaborative project rather than a group show, in which mutual processing gains from individual presentation.

UNDERCURRENT is supported by Flemish Government and IBK-Initiative for Visual Arts Flanders.

About Artists and Their Works:

In her video work **Anouk De Clercq** strips landscapes and buildings bare to create atmospheric, geographic spaces, black and white abstractions, and new and fascinating realities. 'Building', presented at Platform, was inspired by the architecture of the Bruges Concert Hall, developed by the Flemish architects Robberechts & Daem. Light breaks through the windows and makes the atmosphere ghost-like, a haunted house filled with the alienating sounds of Anton Aeki: architecture as frozen music.

Koen De Decker uses mathematical syntaxes in his sculptural installations to stimulate a stronger awareness of space and those left in-between. His works, mostly made with ordinary materials, function as enigmatic markers. He will use Platform's space to produce a new sculpture, which will interact with the characteristics of the environment, balancing tension and release.

Tina Gillen's paintings use a colorful pallet and yet they give an impression of desolation. She often lets architectural forms pop out of the canvas in such a way that known forms become abstractions of color fields. Her works are estranging. Sometimes she enlarges the experience by adding unusual elements to her painterly environment. Gillen will create a new wall painting for the Platform space.

Mekhitar Garabedian's work deals with memory, identity and history as an unavoidable dilemma, which he carries with him as an Armenian born European émigré. Although he touches on very personal issues, Garabedian avoids the anecdotal by placing his discourse on a universal mental plane.

Geert Goiris' photo works are bathed in an idiom of absence. The emptiness, which frequently returns in his work, appeals directly to an experience of time and space. Goiris' images do not document, but reflect, with urban and industrial landscapes appearing differently via the gaze of the artist. His camera eye blends real space to an imaginary state of being.

About Curators:

CIS BIERINCKX lived and worked in Belgium, Slovenia, Portugal, Switzerland, Austria and the USA. He was until last year curator Film/Video at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, USA. As free lancer he curated international exhibition with such artists as David Hammons, Pedro Cabrita Reis, Jimmie Durham, Harmony Korine, Victor Burgin, Fiona Tan, Tracey Moffat, Raymond Depardon and others. In 2002 he was commissioned by Brugge 2002, Cultural Capital of Europe, to put a video installation exhibition together under the title 'What? A tale of free images'. This show included videoworks by e.g. Coco Fusco, Yael Bartana, Peter Friedl, Harun Farocki, Song Dong, Joe Apichatpong, Lisa Dillilo. Recently he presented by invitation of the Museum of Contemporary Art S.M.A.K. in Ghent-Belgium and the coastal town Bredene works of Vito Acconci, Robert Gober, Ed Young, Marlene Dumas, Koosje Schmeddes, Lawrence Wiener, Liza May Post and others in the show GRASDUINEN 01. Future exhibition are GRASDUINEN 02 and the elaborate video-installations project CONTOUR II in Mechelen (Belgium). Cis Bierinckx is, in addition to visual arts, as well active in the fields of performing arts, film and video.

HANS MARTENS is since 200 the director of the Provincial Center for Art and Culture Caermersklooster in Ghent. Previous to it he was for 10 years curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Ghent and is still active an board member of the museum and responsible for the project room exhibition organized by the friends of the museum. He has edited and published different artists monographes and exhibition catalogues and got by the Flemish Ministry of Culture invited be part of the advisory and decision making Committee Visual Art and Museums.