

Art Eco III

Art-ivism

April 10th – May 5th, 2015

Following two earlier exhibitions, entitled *Attitudes* and *Architecture*, the third exhibition in this *Art Eco* exhibition series will focus on the work of a number of exquisite international contemporary artists who fervently react on/ deal with what is happening in the world. Their work can be considered as an artistic derivative of rationales such protest, indignation and (continued) silent faith in the future, without lapsing into activism. Their art is, as the title clearly expresses, one of "Art-ivism", a notion we borrow from the Italian artist Michelangelo Pistoletto, an artist who since the 1960s has been redefining art on the streets and who designed a modest alternative from within the arts by way of his foundation Cittadell'Arte based in the North-Italian village of Biella.

The third chapter is considered as an exhibition in which beautiful images lead to staggering thoughts about the self-evidence with which the world is dealing with injustice, human rights and environmental issues.

Within the context of this exhibition we are delighted to bring together exquisite existing works with a number of new, international productions.

On view from the collection of S.M.A.K. is the video work *Amphibious (Login-Log-out)* by the American-Cuban artist duo Allora & Calzadilla (Jennifer Allora, born 1974 and Guillermo Calzadilla, born 1971).

Lois Weinberger (born 1947), whose work featured already in the first two parts of this series, will be on view with the photo work *selfportrait with mushroom spore* (2008). Furthermore, we are delighted to present his "Wild Cage" in the Botanical Garden in Meise in which one square meter of grass will be left untouched until the end of 2015.

Additionally, work is included by Piero Gilardi (born 1942), the Italian Arte Povera artist who stopped his activities as an artist in 1967 due to conflicts with the commercial art system and became an activist/militant who is until today involved with the organisation of political manifestations.

Other artists include Ann Veronica Janssens (born 1956) in dialogue with photographer Michiel De Cleene (1988), Mikhail Karikis (born 1975), who will present two recent works (*Children of Unquiet* and *SeaWomen*) in a new set-up, Christina Hemauer (1973) and Roman Keller (1969) who will show their documentary film *A Road Not Taken* about the visionary eco-policy of Jimmy Carter.

Four new productions will premiere during this exhibition:

The Danish artist duo Hesselholdt & Mejlvang (Sofie Hesselholdt, 1974 and Vibeke Mejlvang, 1976), who often work around the themes of nationalism and identity, will present a new three-part installation. Their works addresses three subjects that they see as fundamental generators in historical and present global development: the exploitation of natural resources, consumerism and violence - all of which represent an aspect of human self-destructive behavior.

Alexis De Stoop (1971) will present a new photo series based on his experiences before and after the protests in Hong Kong in 2014.

Abbas Akhavan (1977) will present a new work based on recent works *Study for a Hanging Garden* en *Blue Shield*, that both reflect on the disappearance of the cultural and natural heritage in war zones, in casu Iraq.

Johan Grimonprez (1968) will contribute a new installation. In recent years his artistic research has been marked by the consideration of art's role in the development of a new frame of thinking about fundamental global problems that confront humanity. Point of departure is the English Charter of the Forest from 1217, a unique historical document that ensured the protection of commons against privatisation. Grimonprez investigates contemporary applications and concepts of commons in a new work coproduced by the Cultural Center Strombeek.

A new text is written by the Italian critic/curator Marco Scotini.

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Mo-Sa: 10-22u. Sun: 10-18u
Free access

Art Eco is an exhibition series organised by Museumcultuur Strombeek/Ghent.

Since January 2013 the Cultural Centre Strombeek works together with the S.M.A.K. in Ghent on a structural basis. Every year, in the course of four consecutive years, the Cultural Centre, under the heading Museum Culture Strombeek/Ghent, will present two projects (a triptych in spring and a diptych in autumn), focusing on a certain theme. For these projects, the Cultural Centre Strombeek will use the collection of the S.M.A.K.—which comprises more than 2,000 works and spans a period of circa sixty years—as well as works from private collections and new works made for the occasion.

Museumcultuur Strombeek/Ghent is a unique interregional joint venture that aims to bring a new public in contact with the recent history of art, on the basis of the rich collection of the S.M.A.K.

Museumcultuur Strombeek/Ghent is a concept of the Cultural Centre Strombeek. The development and organization of the project take place in close cooperation with the S.M.A.K. Gent.