

1 March - April 19, 2014

Edwin Zwakman 'reality is not a place'



Dyke II, 2013, diasec, 109 x 60 cm

With 'reality is not a place' Edwin Zwakman takes a new direction in his photographic works after a long stay and realisation of site-specific projects in a.o. Beijing and Shanghai. Zwakman became known for the constructed worlds he captured in photographic images that were based on the premise that what we 'know' determines what we see. He elicits the willing suspension of disbelief with simple, even clumsy miniature models that suggest realities that the viewer accepts because of their familiarity and would not pay much attention to otherwise. His solo exhibition 'Fake but Accurate' in Huis Marseille (2008) showed that Zwakman succeeds to present the world around us, the narrow-minded social architecture which dominates the Dutch landscape, the claustrophobic terraced housing or eerie backyards with a monumentality that transcends the intrinsic issues of 'lie or story'. His subject was then, and is now, how images function. In the new series presented at AKINCI, he does not systematically explore his surroundings but allows himself to be guided by his intuition. He exchanges a priori knowledge of objects for the atmosphere they exude. An empty office space becomes almost apocalyptic, a pond with a yellow excavator seems more romantic than any wilderness we know. In these images Zwakman no longer contents himself with the fact that our brain corrects any shortcomings of his makeshift worlds, but wants it to create a new reality outside our natural understanding of time and place. They speak of a heroic, but often tragic endeavour of mankind to live in harmony with his surroundings.

Selected Solo Shows: 2014 Reality is not a place, AKINCI, Amsterdam; 2012 PEACEKEEPER, public space and social media, Kunstencentrum Signe, Heerlen; 2011 Vanished Boundaries OCT Art Museum, Shanghai (with Liu Jianhua, curated by Zhuang Huan); 2009 Tales from the Grid, AKINCI, Amsterdam, HUG, Theater in Motion, Beijing; 2008 Fake but Accurate, Huis Marseille, Amsterdam; Replications Belfast Exposed, Belfast (with Neil Hamon curated by Monica Nunez); 2007 Iconic Target, Ludwig Forum für Internationale Kunst, Aachen; Tales from the Grid, Q-Arts, Derby; 2005 Fake but Accurate, Gimpel Fils Gallery, London; 2004 My Backyard, AKINCI, Amsterdam; 2003 Stedelijk Museum Schiedam, Schiedam; 2002 Woning, Centraal Museum, Utrecht etc.

Selected Collections-: Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, Stedelijk Van Abbe Museum Eindhoven, Museum Boymans van Beuningen Rotterdam, Centraal Museum Utrecht, Gemeente Museum Den Haag, Fries Museum Leeuwarden, Museum De Paviljoens Almere, Stedelijk Museum het Domein Sittard, Stedelijk Museum Schiedam, Huis Marseille Museum voor Fotografie Amsterdam and Stichting de Pont Tilburg, KPN Collectie Amsterdam, ABN AMRO Utrecht, Caldwell Collection New York, La Salle Bank of Chicago, Kunstmuseum Dieselkraftwerk Cottbus, Sammlung DZ Bank Frankfurt/M, Mai 36 Zürich, Sammlung Rudi Bossi Zürich, Fondation Neuflyze Vie Paris, FRAC Marseille, Conseil Rég. de Franche-Comté Besançon, Direcciones Barcelona, H+F Collectie Barcelona, Metronome Barcelona, Helga de Alvear Madrid, OCT Shanghai, He Xiangning Art Museum Shenzhen. Various private, corporate and public collections in Europe, USA, South America and Japan.

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