

## Roger Cremers | *Sleeping Windows* & Juul Hondius | *To Unveil a Star*

5 November - 24 December 2021

AKINCI proudly presents the exhibition *Sleeping Windows* by Roger Cremers and the newest film by Juul Hondius, *To Unveil a Star*.

### Roger Cremers - *Sleeping Windows*

In the work of Roger Cremers past, present and future are not separate entities. Time becomes something strange. Science fiction from the past becomes reality in the future. Driven by a deep fascination for historical images, Cremers creates paintings and sculptures in which he brings collected historical representations and symbols to the present, which call upon feelings of both recognition and alienation.

In the work *The Gathering* (2021), various animals meet under heavenly bodies that have been set up as a natural phenomenon, as if predicted by a prophecy. Among those who are present there is even a unicorn, a reference to mythical creatures that were depicted in medieval prints. The urge to map the unknown is something that has occupied humankind since its beginning. The age-old fascination for the universe, which Cremers addresses in *Constellation* (2021), also bears witness to this. The magical attraction of our galaxies has remained unchanged despite years of technological development. In constellations humans still look for meaningful clues to what will happen in the future.

Cremers paints on reflecting surfaces, which add a vivid brilliance to the works and incorporate the viewer. The mirrors, whose surface has been carved and smeared with thin layers of paint, are partly misty and partly clear, resembling a slumbering portal to another world. Cremers' works often refer to previous paintings or appear to contain references to future works, like an unfolding universe, shaped by the artist himself.



Roger Cremers, *Constellation*, 2021, oil on engraved aluminium dibond, 151 x 120 cm



*To Unveil a Star*, 2021, 1-channel HD film, 54 min, colour, sound

### Juul Hondius - *To Unveil a Star*

In his work, Juul Hondius investigates the status and impact of media images. The visual representation of violence, tension and human suffering as well as the way media select images influence the development of human visual language. In his work Hondius constructs a vision in which the pictorial language of journalism merges with that of cinematographic dramatised fiction. He does not question the viewer about what or whom he presents, but about the way in which the viewer processes an image.

In the essay film *To Unveil A Star*, Juul Hondius creates a filmic portrait of an obsolete steel sculpture that is an icon in geopolitical relations. The film unfolds as an investigation into how military structures are publicly represented and how this is subject to transformation. "We change when the world changes" regularly echoes through the images of historical events and presidents shaking hands. Besides these political passers-by, various protagonists, including a general, an artist and a colony of maybeetles, form the characters that attach different meanings to the story of an elusive military and political entity. Can we still identify with the ideology that the sculpture represents? The film explores the changing identity of NATO as an organisation and as a symbol, from the criticised paragon of protection during the Cold War to the terrifying face of many military attacks today. Hondius allows the viewer to wander through aesthetic

chapters of the existence of the sculpture, from microscopic habitats to global power structures.

**Roger Cremers** (1972, Susteren, The Netherlands) studied at the Academie voor Beeldende Kunsten in Maastricht and the Rijksakademie voor Beeldende Kunsten in Amsterdam. His work has been exhibited at a.o. Tate Modern (2001/2013), GEM, The Hague (2005), Bregenzer Kunstverein (2005), the Sharjah Biennial (2003), Documenta 11 (2002), HEDAH, Maastricht (2002), Stadsgalerij Heerlen (2001), S.M.A.K., Gent (1999), Domaine de Kerguehennec, Bignan (1998-99), De Appel, Amsterdam (1997), and multiple times at AKINCI, Amsterdam. In 2016, Cremers curated his show *Counterpoint* (with Runa Islam and Mark Aerial Waller) and collaborated with Carlo Wijnands for the exhibition design of the expansive *Happy Birthday Marilyn* at De Nieuwe Kerk, Amsterdam. Recent exhibitions took place in Bregenzer Kunstverein/magazin4, Bregenz, Austria (2018) and the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam (2021). Cremers' work can be found in various collections in the Netherlands and abroad, including ABN Amro, the former Peter Stuyvesant collection, and a variety of private collections. He lives and works in Amsterdam.

**Juul Hondius** (1970, Ens, The Netherlands) studied at the FAMU Photography, Film & Television School in Prague and the Royal Academy of Fine Art in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. His work can be found in the collections of the Fonds National d'Art Contemporain in Paris, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam and Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen. Amongst other venues his work was exhibited in Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam (2002); Stedelijk Museum Schiedam (2014); Museum Boijmans van Beuningen (2004/2013); Kunsthalle Düsseldorf (2011); Juan Miro Foundation, Barcelona (2011); Kunsthalle Mannheim (2010); Museum de Fundatie, Heino (2010); Fotomuseum, The Hague (2010); Platform Garanti, Istanbul (2007); Central Museum Utrecht (2007); Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris (2006); The Chicago Art Institute (2006); Photo-London, curated by Mario Testino (2005); De Appel Arts Centre, Amsterdam (2004), Huis Marseille, Amsterdam (2003); Musée des Beaux-Arts, Nantes (2002); and numerous festivals and biennials, including LOOP Barcelona (2015), Beijing Photo Biennial (2014), Lagos Photo International (2010), IDFA (2005), and Busan Biennale, curated by M.Park and T.M. Choi (2004). Recent screenings of 'To Unveil A Star' were held in the Eye Filmmuseum in Amsterdam (2021) and the Centraal Museum in Utrecht during the NFF, the National Dutch Film Festival (2021).