

# OUR HOUSE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET



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The symposium 'Our House in the Middle of the Street' concentrates on subjects that were brought up by the diverse projects that took place in SYB since the start of the residency, formulated along the lines of the various uses of the house. Six guest speakers will address the themes of Nesting, Hospitality, Open House, Social Politics, Playground Structures and Private / Public, aiming to open up discussion and focus on the issues raised within them, to establish a relation with a broader contemporary art theory scene with special attention for project art.

Kunsthuis SYB will function as a performative playground, hosting cross-disciplinary speakers and guests conversing on various locations in Beetsterzwaag and the house itself. At the evening party various performances will be given by artists who recently worked in SYB.

'Our House in the Middle of the Street' is developed by Maja Bekan and Irene Kromhout, artists and member of SYB's programming committee, with the generous support of the Artclub and Maartje Peters, coordinator.

## SYMPOSIUM PROGRAMME:

14.00: Welcome note and the introduction of the event by MAARTJE PETERS, coordinator, and MAJA BEKAN, artist and member of SYB's programming committee

### HOSPITALITY

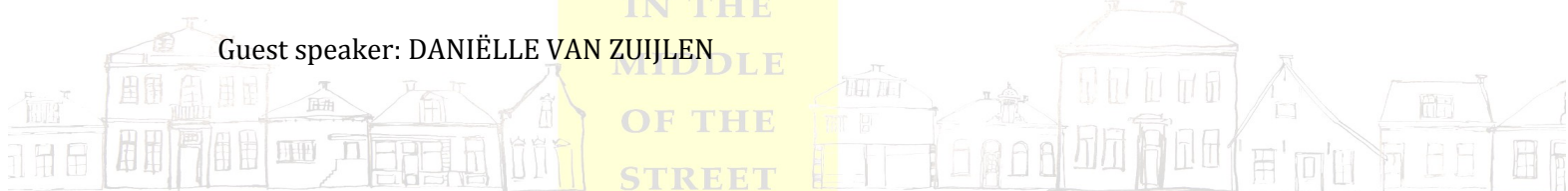
14.30/ Entrance

\_ Performative of the Ritual;

Our interest in *Hospitality* came out of the projects that took the role of the house and the residency as a starting point for an inquiry into the role of the audience as a guest, an artist as a host and the performative gesture of hospitality rituals.

Guest speaker: DANIELLE VAN ZUIJLEN

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Independent artist-curator Daniëlle van Zuijlen (NL 1974) works on research based curatorial projects in the public domain, with a focus on hospitality.

After graduating from the Master of Fine Arts programme at Glasgow School of Art in 2002, she co-founded Hotel Mariakapel, an artist-led residency and exhibition institution in Hoorn (30 min north of Amsterdam), which was under her direction until 2008. Exhibitions include Tramway Glasgow, Scotland; ACCA Melbourne, Australia; IBB Curacao, Dutch Caribbean; Culturgest Porto, Portugal. Currently she is undertaking a 6 month residency at Capacete, Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paolo, Brazil, with Dutch artist Bart Lodewijks.

In 2009 she initiated a long-term curatorial project, 'When Guests Become Host - artistic strategies for finding hospitality in the public domain'. What are the strategies developed by artists, to turn their critical ideals into a relevant part of the public domain? To enable an active research of this process, she collaborates with host institutes, artists and artist groups on the production of new work in the public domain. A first edition of When Guests Become Host took place in Oct-Nov 2009 in Haarlem, NL, in collaboration with art space Nieuwe Vide. From July-Oct 2010 a new edition was realised in Porto, Portugal, in collaboration with Culturgest Porto.

#Note: Daniëlle is currently resident at Capacete, Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paolo, Brazil, and for this occasion her contribution will be read and performed by Irene Kromhout.

## **NESTING**

15.00/ Kitchen

*Nesting* is inspired with the projects that continued engaging the house as an equal contributor and those that introduced the idea of nesting as an appropriation of the space and the notion of home as a role of gender.

Guest performer: DEIRDRE M. DONOGHUE

*Kitchen Lecture: Notes on Gesture / Variation no: 4/ Da Capo.*

Whilst preparing dinner for her family, Deirdre M. Donoghue presents the viewer with a talk on the history of gesture studies and her own research interests evolving around language, gesture and becoming. By setting herself this physically demanding task of giving an artist's-talk while preparing her family a meal, she makes transparent the conditions of the artistic production of many female artists. The Kitchen Lecture: Notes on Gesture was first performed in January 2010 for the exhibition Florida. The Kitchen Lecture was supported and made possible by P for Performance; a platform for performative events organized by the Serbian artist Maja Bekan and kindly facilitated by ADA, Area for Debate and Art's Wintergarden project. At SYB the Kitchen Lecture will be a variation, rather than a repetition of the video lecture.

Deirdre M. Donoghue, (Finland, 1971) is an artist based in Rotterdam. In her works she seeks to set-up situations where multiple relations can be set into motion and the production of new knowledge through cross-disciplinary methods and approaches become mobilized. Her video, performance, installation and text-works often focus on the relational aspects of memory production, cultural translation and the production of a Self. She is a contributing editor of the publication Resonant Bodies, Voices, Memories, Revolver, Archiv für aktuelle Kunst, Frankfurt and The Piet Zwart Institute, Rotterdam and a founding member of ADA, Area for Debate and Art.

15.30: **COFFEE BREAK**

## **PRIVATE/PUBLIC**

16.00/ Living room

The subject is inspired with the actual position of SYB, where the resident's private - working space is visible and open to the public during the project's duration and thus with projects that were directly reflecting on it with an query into the notion of public/private.

Guest speaker: ANA NIKITOVIC

"In September 1978, small celebration took place in one apartment in the center of Banja luka, city in Bosnia and Herzegovina which at the time belonged to the Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia. After the mayor's speech, he handed them the keys of the very same apartment to Draginja and Vojo Terzić, modest housewife and her husband a truck driver. Not unusual image for that time and place, unless we take into consideration that the apartment was given to them for the purpose of holding their huge collection of paintings and sculpture. Respected citizens Draginja and Vojo Terzić continued living in the very same apartment, occasionally opening it up to the curious visitors to admire their growing collection.

Time passed by. There was war. Country has changed, as well as the political and social system.

In September 2008, during the search for the venue of the SPAPORT show, I accidentally heard about this forgotten space and its history. The door of the apartment was sealed and most of the collection was given to the local Museum of contemporary art. After a lot of persuasion and complex administrative processes, we managed to get in the space and use it as one of the exhibition venues.

This is the story of the symbolic potential of contemporary art show and its meanings. How such a space and its history could be referred to the contemporary art show and how could its context be presented indirectly."

Ana Nikitovic is curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art Belgrade, participant 'de Appel Curatorial Programme' 08/09 and member of the Prelom Kolektiv.

#Note: due to the unexpected commitments in Belgrade, Ana will join us via SKYPE.

## **PLAYGROUND STRUCTURES**

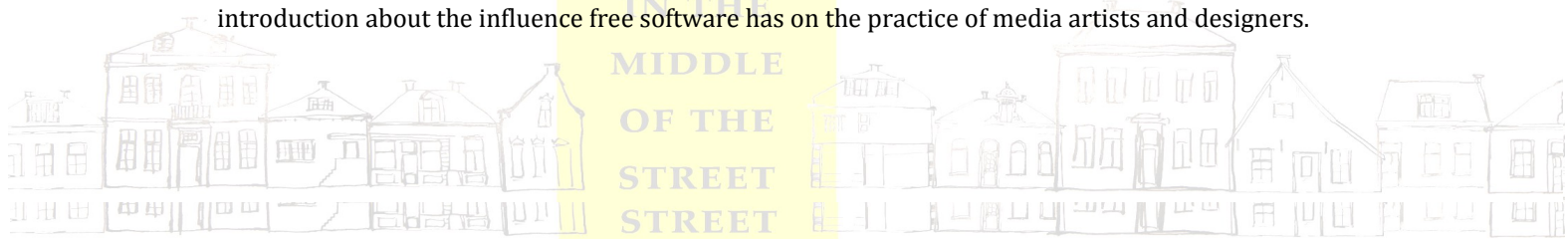
16.30 / Gallery

\_Virtual landscape

The subject is inspired with the projects relating towards the use of new media and technologies in art (software, games, etc) and the architecture of it. The role of the house was transformed into a hub, station, enabling dialog trough virtual landscape.

Guest speaker: AYMERIC MANSOUX

Aymeric Mansoux (FR) is core tutor and co-supervisor of study for the Media Design and Communication Master of the Piet Zwart Institute in Rotterdam. He is also an MPhil/PhD student at Goldsmiths, University of London. As an artist he has initiated several projects to support free software in the arts, such as the 'make art' festival, the 'Puredyne' GNU/Linux distribution and the 'FLOSS+Art' publication. His latest work, 'Naked on Pluto', a collaboration with Dave Griffiths and Marloes de Valk, is a multiplayer Facebook parody game exploring the limits and nature of social networks from within. His talk will be a general introduction about the influence free software has on the practice of media artists and designers.



## **SOCIAL POLITICS**

17.00/ Bedroom

Either directly talking to the audience with written slogans on the building itself or taking more subtle approach, projects which inspired this subject were actively participating in political and social dialog, in/directly questioning what does 'speaking out' in art institution means and if so, who is listening?

Guest speaker: FRANS-WILLEM KORSTEN

### **"Our house in the middle of the street..."**

Wouldn't that be an adequate description of public space as a, somehow, safe space?

But beware. The house is, of old, both the centre of protection and the place where the nastiest things can happen with the doors/curtains closed (and the usual victims: children and women).

I intend to focus on one aspect of the several ones that need to be addressed in order to keep the house in the middle of the street a house of 'joy' (in the Deleuzian sense, that is to say, not of fun but of positive or, better, active energy). The theme will be the currently popular theme of 'the collective'. In the Netherlands 'the collective realm' or 'sphere' has become equivalent with public realm or sphere. As such it seems to be an open space where anybody can enter at will. Such an idea would fit in well, however, with the perhaps not too old fashioned idea of 'false ideology'. In order to be able to work with a sensible understanding of the collective it is wise to define the minimal conditions under which one can speak of 'collective'. These I will try to define, and they will all concern forms of struggle or even battle. And indeed, would not an adequate description of 'our house in the middle of the street' be that it will have to withstand besiege, or be the place from which we wage battle?"

Frans-Willem Korsten is a cultural theorist living in Utrecht. He is professor in Literary Studies (University of Leiden), and holder of the Chair for Literature and Society (Erasmus University Rotterdam). He is a member of the editorial board of Boom-The Hague (series: philosophy of science); of the editorial board of Amsterdam University Press; and of the editorial board of JDL (*Journal of Dutch Literature*). He is a former chairman of the section of Letters in the national Council of Culture (Raad voor Cultuur) and was a tutor at the Piet Zwart Institute in Rotterdam (2003-2008). His current research focuses on the politics of reading (text, theatre, urban landscape, and law) and he is responsible for an internationalization program, subsidized by the Netherlands Organisation of Scientific Research (NWO), about *precarity*.

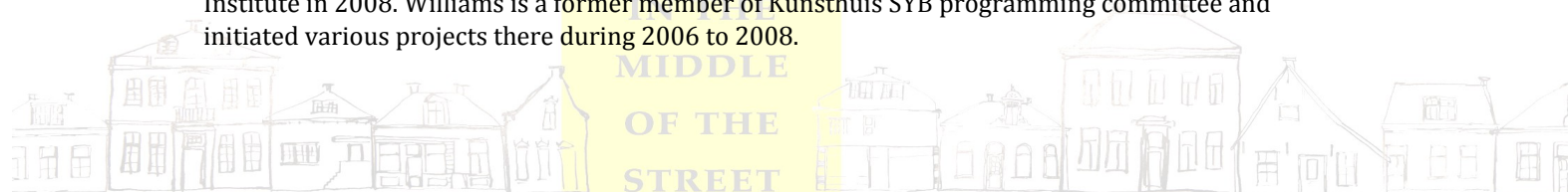
## **OPEN HOUSE**

17.30/Kitchen

With this subject we are hoping to open up the discussion about what does it mean to collaborate and exchange and what are the potential advantages or limitations of being 'open'.

Guest speaker: EMILY WILLIAMS

Emily Williams (1980, UK) lives and works in the Netherlands. As an artist and a curator her practice involves a continuous interrelation and negotiation between the two. Her lines of enquiry are rooted in finding malleability and flexibility in static situations and objects. The limits and possibilities of a collaborative space determine the contours for a work to unfold. Emily Williams is the 2010 guest curator for Nieuwe Vide arts pace in Haarlem where she is developing the project The Object Lag and is currently teaching in the foundation year of DOGtime – Gerrit Rietveld Academy. She studied at the Fine Arts Department of The Gerrit Rietveld Academy and obtained her MFA at The Dutch Art Institute in 2008. Williams is a former member of Kunsthuis SYB programming committee and initiated various projects there during 2006 to 2008.



On Invitation by SYB to talk about Open House, Emily Williams asks, what does it mean to be open? She reflects on honesty, uncertainty and vulnerability. States of being that go hand in hand with open ends and an 'open practice'. She uses examples from The Object Lag, the project she is currently immersed in as the 2010 guest curator for Nieuwe Vide. The Object Lag originated from her MFA thesis, an essay that circles a phenomenological world where the 'object' flexes with our perception. This idea is transferred to a curatorial structure unfolding in collaboration with artists, designers, choreographers, institutes and sister initiatives over the course of the year.

## 18.30: DINNER

## 20.00: EVENING PARTY

### MANEL ESPARBÉ I GASCA

with the performance 'VODOOCOFFEE'. Burned coffee with Brandy, herbs and chocolate, live prepared with fire...

Manel Esparbé i Gasca (Barcelona 1959) is visual artist, teacher and head of DOGtime Programme Gerrit Rietveld Academie, Amsterdam.

### BASJE BOER

recites from 'Het huis met de arend' that she wrote in SYB during her project in 2009 with artist Ruth van Beek.

Basje Boer (1980, Amsterdam) is a visual artist and a writer of stories. In addition, she regularly publishes articles on art and film.

### GERWIN LUIJENDIJK & KATHRIN MARIA WOLKOWICZ

will perform European and American folk music using guitar and voice.

The artists Gerwin Luijendijk and Kathrin Wolkowicz work together since 2009. Besides their own individual art practice they develop video installations investigating gesture and body in commercial representations.

*Our House in the Middle of the Street has been made possible thanks to the financial support of the Mondriaan Foundation, the province of Friesland and the Stokroos Foundation.*

