ANNE-MIE VAN KERCKHOVEN

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ZENO X GALLERY
A Long-Standing Collaboration

Zeno X Gallery opened its doors in the autumn of 1981. You invited me for a studio visit. At that time, there were few opportunities for female artists. Your appearance and attitude, and the collaboration with Danny De Vos at Club Moral, meant that you had already built up a certain reputation in the avant-garde world. Your first solo exhibition in the gallery was *Industriële Typen (Industrial Types)* in 1982. This *Gesamtkunstwerk* with steel wire, mirrors, foam and red twos on the floor still lingers in the mind. Today, we would think twice before stretching thin, almost invisible steel cables twenty centimetres from the ground criss-crossing the gallery. What if someone were to fall over them?

A long collaboration inevitably means ups and downs and many discussions, but in the end it is based on trust. You continue to surprise me as a gallerist with refreshing works and installations, a model for many young artists. As several German media wrote about your travelling exhibition in German museums, you have been a pioneer in many areas.

Looking back, I can only agree with the words of Jan Braet. On the occasion of the exhibition *Risquons-Tout* at Wiels in 2020, he wrote in the weekly *Knack*: 'Isolated in a corner of the Wiels building, Anne-Mie Van Kerckhoven shows that her impressive oeuvre was achieved from start to finish by means of ground-breaking operations. Driven from the outset by a desire to expand consciousness, she made complex drawings from lines conceived simply, interweaving such diverse subjects as femininity (body and mind), interior design, metaphysics, art and science through intense digital processing. Chaos and order, madness and deeper insight into the mysteries of the organism battle for precedence in *A-X-B=12*, the film that condenses her entire oeuvre, including her musical explorations. More than anyone else she can truly claim: I risked everything.'

Thank you, Anne-Mie.

Frank

December 2021

Industriële Typen





Anne-Mie Van Kerckhoven and Guillaume Bijl

Anne-Mie Van Kerckhoven in Zeno-X

De vrije associaties van «Industriële Typen»

In Galerij Zeno-X (Leopold De Waelplaats 16 te Antwerpen) stelt tot 25 maart de Antwerpse Anne-Mie Van Kerekhoven (AMVK) schilderijen tentoon. Het zijn vijf reeksen van werken die de naam «Industriële typen» meekregen. Mannen - vrouwen uitspraken - doel - orde : die vijf thema's werden in een conventioneel zinloos en betekenisloos verband samengebracht, naast elkaar geplaatst. Het zijn alle felkleurige en breed uitge-streken schilderijen op plexiglas, met een veelheid aan figuratieve en non-figuratieve uitdrukkingsvormen. meestal schokkend, omdat in de op het eerste gezicht ruwe schets vaak een sterk herkenningseffect zit. «Conventioneel zin- en betekenisloos» zeiden we. Voor de argeloze kijker is er inderdaad geen verband tussen de reeksen onderling, tussen de schilderijen en de bijbehorende teksten, die je op posterformaat (gratis) worden aangeboden. Maar het verband is niet rationeel. Het zijn emotionele en gedachten-impressie bij elk werk, die weer verbonden worden met ander werk in andere reeksen, of met de aankleding van de galerij zelf. Daarom is deze tentoonstelling ook zo boeiend: geen louter prentjes-kijken, maar een con-frontatie van je eigen inventiviteit (waarbij je de bakens van je eigen, gewoontegetrouwe conventionaliteit zo ver mogelijk moet verzetten) met die van de «kunstenares».

AMVK laat nadenken, zonder rationele gedachten of sluitende antwoorden aan te bieden. Je denkt wat je wil, je associeert zoals je wil, je zoekt het zelf maar uit : tegen de verstarring van de allesomvattende zekerbeden, tegen het strakke normenbesef.

Bij een schilderij in de reeks *orde- citeert ze : *De impulsen van middelmatigheid drogeren. Ze zijn verslavend en verwekken creativiteit. Daarom is Belgie zo'n vruchtbaar land tegenwoordig*. Doorgedreven trivialiteit, die de gedachte bewust op zijn kop zet. Zoals de hele wereld overigens.

De tentoonstelling kan bezocht worden vrij, zater- en zondag van 14 tot 18 uur, tot 25 maart.

M.R.



performance Resonantiepunctie by Danny Devos

review by Marc Ruyters in De Nieuwe Gazet, 3 March 1982



1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (de Nummering van de Onderdelen van de Optelsom "Stress") (1, 2, 3, 4, 5 [the Numbering of the Parts of the Sum "Stress"]), 1982





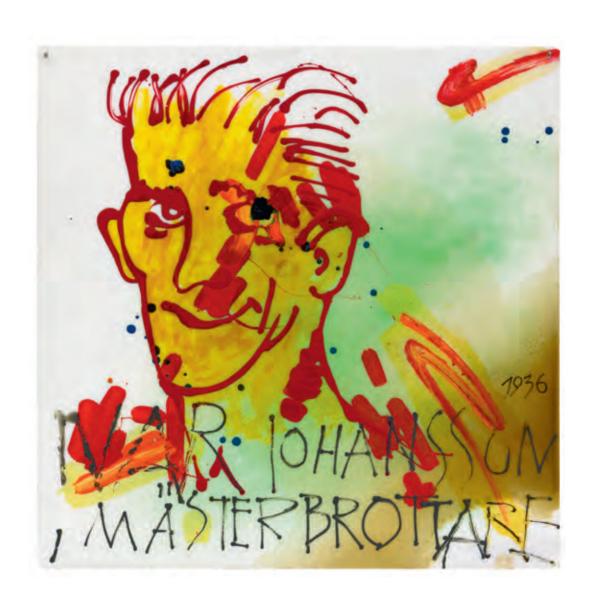






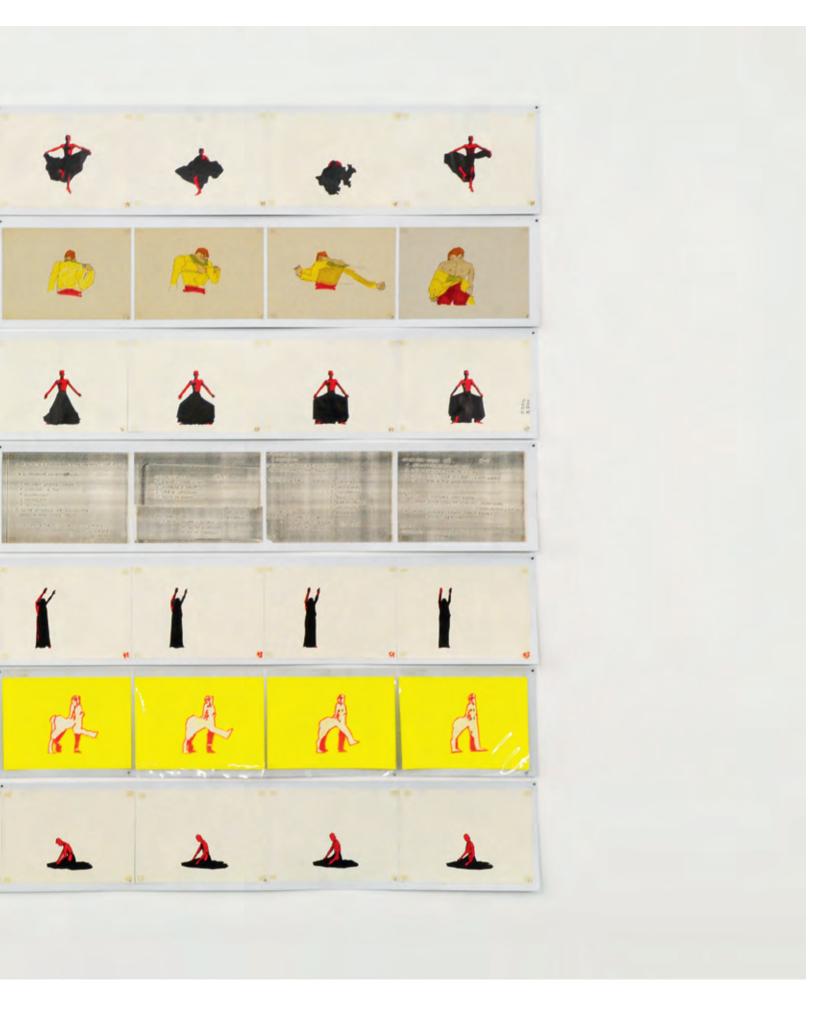












Transport















1990 Shangri-Lah





Annemie van Kerckhoven, Altar for the Sun, 1989 Plastic, synthetic paint on Trovicel, 96" x 48" x 48"

ANTWERP

Annemie Van Kerckhoven ZENO X GALLERY

The exhibitions of Annemie Van Kerckhoven (she signs with AMVK) should be lived through, like a kind of anti-brainwash. She wants to fight our conditioning by outstripping it in strength. To that end she uses all possible means: video images and paintings alternating with text. Everything is combined into fanatic transference, in the drive to

activate.

Zeno X Gallery shows only the paintings: a succession of quiet, obsessive images. It is rather a classic gallery show, which implies a sound choice. Not because her multimedia approach is ineffective, but because Van Kerckhoven shows here that her painted images, once they are on their own, do not stay behind as a dumb residue. Before, separate moments threatened to be lost in crumbled profusion; now everything has become more concentrated. This way, her work gains the power which brings it closer to what it wants to be: a shock therapy for the consciousness.

AMVK paints on hard, coloured plates (polystyrene, trovicel...) because these materials

MAY 1990

review by Dirk Pültau in *Artscribe*, May 1990

do not offer resistance. Colour — also the plate's colour — is important because it is a mutation of light, and thus a vehicle of knowledge. The images show figuration, but as abstractly as possible. They are pure and hard, their constructive pattern seems to expose a muscular structure as in anatomical

AMVK shows the movement under the surface; she repaints the human as a point in a field of force. Her structures grasp that which is invisibly operative and which determines the existing: power, and that which undermines power; what is enforced, and what breaks down the enforced. Her interest lies in the principles that are not ruled by our thinking, because they remain operative under the categories.

Three works, their lower halves on the ground and their upper halves against the wall, represent three principles. In the first, Altar for the Earth, man and woman are linked with a cross. For AMVK this is a sign of stability, rooted like a tree. The second, Altar for the Sun, shows woman as an overwhelming force. In Altar for the Moon a woman, in supporting her breasts, offers her femininity. The two latter works are about (dynamic) knowledge, about consciousness; but while the wisdom of the sun is stifling because of its literal nature, that of the moon is liberating.

As an image the moon is the paradigm of the imagination, which is being transferred via the exhibition into what AMVK calls 'the fifth force', and which is also connected with the 'satanic' element. Here we find the fulcrum of her moral activity: a positive force which makes holes in our delineated systems, and originates new connections. In that context she prefers the unsafe over the safe.

Van Kerckhoven does not fix concepts, nor does she define the existing. She merely shows the fluidity of forces that cannot be attributed to any instance at all. She does not exchange one institution for another. Her concepts do not have a name within our world, which makes her thinking subversive.

AMVK opens up thought, and connects. These two movements seem to be in conflict. Her hard-core images have dogmatic traits, they come across as the spectre of a strange instrument of power. In an extreme form her work shows the paradox of resistance: it takes on the shape of the totalitarian against which it is opposed. To connect things, this is her revolt. She liberates the doubt which is exiled by the false organisation of our existence.

Dirk Pültau









Thanks to

Antwerp City Council, blackflag, Jan Braet, Eliane Breynaert, Jelle Breynaert, Cleo Cafmeyer, Bart De Baere (M HKA), Cathérine De Kock, Bert De Leenheer, Chantal De Smet, Danny Devos, Edith Doove, Peter Fischer (Kunstmuseum Lüzern), Chris Fitzpatrick (Kunstverein München). Anselm Franke, Laurence Gateau (FRAC des Pays de la Loire), Saar Geerts, Bilyana Georgieva, Karen Geurts, Susanne Ghez (The Renaissance Society), Michelle Grabner, Aaron Harris, Frank Heirman, Nina Hendrickx. Astrid Holsters, Leen Huet, Danny Ilegems, Anders Kreuger (M HKA), Nathalie Le Blanc, Filip Luyckx, Tobi Maier, Lief Meeus, Marianne Milans, Samyra Moumouh, Susanne Neubauer, Elsbeth Neyens, Eva Nijs, Chantal Pattyn, Roland Patteeuw, François Piron, Philippe Pirotte (Kunsthalle Bern), Dirk Pültau, Kathleen Rahn (Kunstverein Hannover), Hans Rudolf Reust, Marc Ruyters, Daniël A. Schacht, Sabine Schormann, Wilhelm Schürmann, Ellen Seifermann (Kunsthalle Nürnberg), Dirk Snauwaert (WIELS Centre for Contemporary Art), Susanne Titz (Museum Abteiberg Mönchengladbach), Barbara Thumm, Ernest Van Buynder, Philippe Van Cauteren (S.M.A.K.), Jos Van den Bergh, Philip Van den Bossche (Mu.ZEE), Koen Van den Brande, Noor Van der Poorten, Ronald Van de Sompel, Dirk Van Hecke, Patrick Van Rossem, Hamza Walker (The Renaissance Society), Moritz Wesseler (Fridericianum), and all collectors and long-time supporters.

Concept

Frank Demaegd, Zeno X Gallery

Coordination Zeno X Gallery

Design

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Translation

from Dutch into English Patrick Lennon

Copy-editing

Sis Matthé (text Frank Demaegd) Derek Scoins

Cover

Ectoplasma (Ectoplasm), 1991 acrylic and plastic foil on Trovicel, mounted on wood with iron hinged joints 2×(190×90×4.4cm)

Printing

die Keure, Bruges, Belgium

Binding

IBW, Oostkamp, Belgium

First published by ZENO X BOOKS Hannibal Books Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther und Franz König

Distribution in Belgium, The Netherlands and France Hannibal Books www.hannibalbooks.be ISBN 978 94 6436 632 7

ISBN 978 94 6436 632 7 D/2022/11922/12 NUR 642

Distribution in Europe (excluding Belgium, The Netherlands and France)

Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther und Franz König Ehrenstr. 4 D–50672 Köln tel: +49 (0) 221 / 20 59 6 53

verlag@buchhandlung-walther-koenig.de

ISBN 978-3-7533-0165-5

UK & Ireland

Cornerhouse Publications Ltd. – HOME 2 Tony Wilson Place UK – Manchester M15 4FN tel: +44 (0) 161 212 3466 publications@cornerhouse.org

Outside Europe

D.A.P. / Distributed Art Publishers, Inc. 75 Broad Street, Suite 630 USA – New York, NY 10004 tel: +1 (0) 212 627 1999 orders@dapinc.com

ISBN 978-3-7533-0165-5

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Printed in Belgium