

13.01.2010 - 20.02.2010

ENGLISH

UITBURGEREN, BABY!*

SIMONA DENICOLAI & IVO PROVOOST

INSTALLATION, VIDEO + 2 PERFORMANCES

Exhibition: Wednesday March 3 until Saturday April 10 2010

Opening of the exhibition + performances: Wednesday afternoon March 3 at 5 pm

Ce que tu vois est ce que tu es. Ce que tu vois est ce que tu es. With this statement the Italian-Belgian artist duo Denicolai & Provoost launches a playful muddle about the role of the artwork, the influence of its surroundings, authenticity and its existence as incidental remains of an original idea. The exhibition of the duo is number 2 in a serial of exhibitions which West is organizing at the beginning of 2010 and that is dedicated to promising young artists from outside the Dutch borders.

SIMONA DENICOLAI (1972) & **IVO PROVOOST** (1974) withdraw art from each form of ivory-tower context. They are aspiring art which enables a feedback to the economic and social reality in our society. They make use of multimedia instruments inside the esthetic and political intimacy of their artistic method.

The earthworm (2001) as a sharp and naive metaphor for the artist and the people in general is thus a reoccurring image in their work. He 'swallows his context, digests and shits to survive and evolve in his environment...' Life can be that easy.

That fact that reality is much more complex becomes clear watching their video *To be here (happy)* (2005). In this road-movie a cactus plays the leading part. The artists want to repatriate the houseplant in its native land California and to reconstruct the image of the desert as a cultural black hole like it has been imported via western movies on location, at *Death Valley*. During the time of recording, the cactus must be replaced by an artificial cactus, whereby the film project remains, however, legal but gets lost in absurdity at the same time.

Posters for a performance or old drawings from Denicolai's academy time which are adapted by the duo form another part of their work. They are a contribution to the discussion about the completed and unique (art)work and the myth of the 'self-sustaining' creation. With different interventions Denicolai & Provoost examine continuously the question of the esthetics of a deduced product. The art of Denicolai & Provoost may be lacking in clearness and logic but in exchange the artists offer very intimate insights into their world of experience and are questioning the routine of watching art.

To the audience who dares to get involved with the work of Denicolai & Provoost, a miraculous and rich world of social involvement and personal dedication will open up; a world that persuades by sensitive straightforwardness.

The work *Bad translations are cheaper* from 2008 is a key work and is the basis for a performance during the opening of the exhibition at West. What was initially documentation of an earlier performance now produces puzzle material for new work and is kept alive by the artists in this way.

How dynamic the work of Denicolai & Provoost is, becomes clear from a second performance on the opening evening, in which the artists give life to stones from the canal in front of the gallery. Beside this, the powerful, multilayer video *abc* is shown, which makes multiculturalism open for discussion in several manners.

Especially for this exhibition, a multiple was made with the title *Let's have a look* in a small edition.

Denicolai & Provoost exhibited previously at Galerie Aliceday, Tatjana Pieters and BeLa Editions, SMAK, Netwerk en WIELS in Belgium in the Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, at Galerie West, Den Haag and Galerie Sparwasser, Berlin, at Krinzing Projekt, Wenen and Hangar in Barcelona. They were part of the Biennale of Pancevo in 2004, the Biennale of Boekarest in 2006 and the Biennale of Lyon in 2007. This year their work will be shown on the Biennale of Rennes, in the EACC, Castellon, Spanje, at the CNEAI in Paris, in the Halle für Kunst, Lüneburg, and at the Kunstverein Harburger Bahnhof, Hamburg and on the eArts Festival in Shanghai during the World Exhibition. Their work can be found in several private and public collections in France and Belgium.

We are pleased to invite you to the official opening with performances on Wednesday March 3 at 5 pm.

For press photo's or more information please contact us via info@galeriewest.nl or call 0031(0)70.392.53.59.

*Literal translation: Denaturalize, baby!

West

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