

INTRO- DUCTION

Hello you,

What do you want to know?
Something about this publication?
Who we are, and where we are located?
Or that we are a group of self-publishing artists and a kind of temporary collective?

Maybe you want to know that we met at the Borgerstraat open studio-show alongside Art Rotterdam, in an artist studio-building, a five minutes walk from the Van Nelle Factory, where since 2014 Art Rotterdam takes place; do you want to know this?

That some of us work permanently in this Borgerstraat studio-building, and some were invited as guest artists to take part in the 2016 show?

Or perhaps you're curious to know that the Borgerstraat exhibition-initiative started in 2013 and the first publication was launched for the 2014 show? And that we have realized a new show and a new publication every year since then?

Do you want to know something about our curatorial practice? That, if possible, a guest artist who presented work at the Borgerstraat open studio invites a guest artist after him/her for the next year? In addition, we started working with the Rotterdam based Willem de Kooning Art Academy to offer an exhibition platform for some of the students after graduating, as they start their life as a new generation of young artists.

You want to know the idea behind this exhibition initiative? That it intends for a discourse between practicing artists about their ways of art production, the concepts and views that they intend to be embodied in their artworks, what they think about a position they want to take in the official art system and in society and everyday life in general? Is this of interest for you? If not, then stop reading here, okay?

It is not the fact that there is something you have to know! Who decides about what is relevant and helpful in today's society, and that, as a mental source, creates real value? It is you and me and it is us who have to take over the responsibility of what is worth knowing and to want to know it;

and to take over deciding what is just a fake of inspiring knowledge or just bullshit of conserved information. Sorry if I have bored or overwhelmed you... but, it is really not up to me, but for sure it is up to you, to decide if you want to stop reading or to continue.

What this publication wants to communicate, is that artists should take over the responsibility and initiative, or take it back from the contemporary anonymous and highly hierarchized general authority of competition culture in art and society: Let us take it back, this responsibility for a discourse about existential decisions in the field of art production and societal forming. You think I go too far? I, myself, do not think so. We have to defend the right to take responsibility, as much as possible, into our own hands and to not let others dictate as to what we have to know, or as to what type of art should to be shown, or how societal life conditions in general should be designed.

Our exhibition and publication initiative is an example of a trial with this aim. And the issue is to formulate questions, to design our own questions and communicate our own question-design with others in art and in society.

Thanks for your interest, shown by the fact that you have ended up reading this whole introduction. I/we hope that you will like the discourse of images and the content of texts that you will find in the publication.

In part I, you will find photos of the Borgerstraat studio building shot by Sylvana Lansu and statements from all of the artists, responding to 11 questions - which we all answered - and which were designed by Dagmar Baumann and myself.

In part II, every participating artist is represented by a photograph of a current work, and when possible also by an individual inlay, designed and printed by the artists themselves.

On behalf of the publication's production team,
Heyer Thurnheer