

ELLEN DE BRUIJNE PROJECTS

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NAP #2

DESPISE THE SOLID BURGHER, BUT DRINK DEEP OF HIS FLAGON

23/06 – 28/07/18

During the months of June and July, the galleries of the Amsterdam Jordaan district will join forces for the second time to organize Nieuw Amsterdams Peil (NAP). This year, the exhibition will be curated by Joost Declercq, director of the Belgian Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens and Charlotte Crevits, curator of Dhondt-Dhaenens. For this second edition, Declercq is selecting one artist per gallery, to be paired with a second artist that is not represented by a gallery in the Netherlands. Through coupling these artists, Declercq is putting them in the spotlights as well as providing the galleries with a link to foreign partners through international collaborations.

For the exhibition at Ellen de Bruijne Projects, Declercq invited Alain Biltreyst to create a duo presentation in collaboration with Klaas Kloosterboer.

Alain Biltreyst

The Belgian artist Alain Biltreyst (1965, lives in Brussels) takes a unique approach to the genre of abstract painting. Biltreyst's paintings – typically painted on small, wooden panels – are firmly embedded in reality. The patterns, colours and compositions are present in the urban landscape that forms the basis of his work. Commercial graphic design such as posters and graphic images plastered on the sides of trucks, trailers and airplanes, as well as architectural constructions or transportation crates, are his sources. The result is abstract works that, by reason of their geometric shapes and primary colours, display a new affinity with modernism's pictorial idiom. They call to mind the utopian works of De Stijl, and American Minimalist painters like Frank Stella or Robert Mangold. For this exhibition, Biltreyst also made a wall painting 'in situ' that, like his paintings, achieves a perfect equilibrium between impeccable harmonious compositions rich in connotations.

Klaas Kloosterboer

In the exhibition Biltreyst enters into dialogue with the Dutch artist Klaas Kloosterboer (1959, Schermer) whose opus, which encompasses painting, sculpture, video and installation art, is also based around a similarly abstract visual idiom. Kloosterboer's aesthetically radical works display close ties with the ideas of the Zero Movement and Fluxus. His oeuvre is distinguished by experiment, traceable actions and a rejection of conventions. The paintings are often the product of a process of 'deconstruction' which involves the artist slashing the canvas or hurling paint at it. In this way, both his paintings and installations possess a highly performative character, which gives his work an unexpected playfulness and levity. With a new series of works, Kloosterboer strikes up a dialogue with new work by Biltreyst, whereby both artists energetically respond to diverse dissonances/parallels in their language of form.

Participating galleries

andriess ~ eyck gallery, Annet Gelink Gallery, Ellen de Bruijne Projects, GRIMM, Ron Mandos, Stigter Van Doesburg, tegenboschvanvreden, galerie Fons Welters and Martin van Zomeren

All participating artists

Alain Biltreyst (BEL), Thomas Bogaert (BEL), Koen van den Broek (BEL), Matt Bryans (GBR), Gianni Caravaggio (ITA), Matthew Day Jackson (USA), Edith Dekyndt (BEL), Iris van Dongen (NED), Michel François (BEL), Klaas Kloosterboer (NED), Nicolás Lamas (PER), Thomas Lerooy (BEL), Renzo Martens (NED), Nástio Mosquito (AGO), Ana Navas (ECU), Nadia Naveau (BEL), Philippe Vandenberg (BEL), Bouke de Vries (NED), Marijke van Warmerdam (NED)

Image: Nederlands Fotomuseum / © Ed van der Elsken - Courtesy Annet Gelink Gallery