LE QUOTIDIEN

valerie\_traan gallery

Participating artists:

**Ralph Collier** (BE)  
**Nikolaas Demoen** (BE)  
**Arpaïs Du Bois** (BE) (courtesy of gallery FIFTY ONE)

Miles Fischler (BE)  
Isabelle Krieg (CH)   
Rikkert Paauw (NL)  
Florence Paradeis (FR)  
Geert Vanoorlé (BE)

LE QUOTIDIEN

opens on Sunday 27 October and runs until 7 December 2019

A daily newspaper, such as 'Le Quotidien de Paris', is called 'un Quotidien' in French. But 'Le Quotidien' also means: everyday life.

With this pun on the double meaning of 'Le Quotidien', the exhibition aims to bring together two very different worlds. On the one hand the ordinary daily life of everyone, in this case artists and designers. And on the other hand, the newspapers (or modern media) that we open every day to learn about what has happened in the world.

At the breakfast table, on the train or tram, the world of the newspaper (tablet, telephone or computer) collides with everyday life. The breakfast table full of breadcrumbs, jam stains and empty coffee cups is flooded by the war and peace, domestic and foreign policy, economic prosperity and poverty, culture and sports, with which the newspapers fill their pages. It is a world that is familiar to us (as newspaper readers and media viewers) but which we rarely meet in our real world: 'Les quotidiens' conjure up a world that is not part of 'la vie quotidienne'.

Artists and designers, consciously or unconsciously, allow themselves to be influenced by the environment in which they find themselves and by the daily stream of news coming toward us.

Valerie\_traan brings together a number of artists and designers from various visual disciplines, who cast their empathic gaze on everyday life. In the 'Le Quotidien’-exhibition they talk about current themes, or about what touched them at a certain moment in the news. The viewer looks along with the artist's critical gaze at his - or hers - social engagement or non-engagement, as the case may be.

Florence Paradeis

Through the staging of photographs, this French artist asks us questions about our daily lives. She confronts us with scenes from everyday life that give a strange impression and lets us look at the world with irony. The theatre of life in her photographs lends itself to multiple interpretations and shows the manipulation to which we are exposed on a daily basis: one should never believe what one sees.

Arpaïs Du Bois

The works in mixed media by Arpaïs Du Bois form a series of images in which she reacts to everyday reality. She records her impressions on paper by means of a play with lines, colours and text. The letters, capitals, are independent graphic elements, but they also form French expressions. They function as melancholic reminiscences to the outside world - as a sediment of the world of the media around us: "Si tout va bien", "Dans un monde de débris", "S'attendre à la fin du rêve".

Geert Vanoorlé

In the works for this exhibition Geert Vanoorlé looks at the news as a painter. His paintings have an elegant beauty, in which the evil outside world is usually kept at a distance. Yet they are also permeated by reality in a way that is not very noticeable. By incorporating themes from reality in a subconscious way in his canvases, the painter gives meaning to life in a thoughtful way. As colleague Nikolaas Demoen wrote about him: "You can hear the painter whisper in his paint."

Isabelle Krieg

News and the passing of time are themes that often appear in Isabelle Krieg's work. In 2003-11 she made 'Unerledigt I-III': she was annoyed by the news about the second war in Iraq, about which she read every morning in the newspaper at breakfast. As a reaction she painted the protagonists of the conflict, but also soldiers, civilians and other figures she found in newspapers, inside coffee cups. In sinks she stacked them to form installations. For this exhibition she makes a sequel with cups in which possibly the heads of Donald Trump and Greta Thunberg will appear.

Miles Fischler

Miles Fischler works as a photographer in Antwerp. She is interested in how man constructs and divides the world. She uses colour and composition to involve the viewer in the image and to achieve a poetic effect. To create her enigmatic photographs, she uses her own images and material from photo archives and image banks. By showing satellite photos of fenced but empty pieces of land, she raises questions about private property. In this exhibition she shows photographs of the fire in the Notre-Dame in Paris and forest fires in Portugal (which evoke those in the Amazon rainforest).

Nikolaas Demoen

Nikolaas Demoen reflects by means of texts, images, drawings and film installations on the reality of the artist, from studio practice to market economic reality. Through poetic and metaphorical images, he provides an insight into the relationship between the individual and the artist with the world and, in particular, with the world of the arts. For this exhibition he wrote a poem in which the collision between the 'I' and the world is made tangible in an strange, poetic way.

Ralph Collier

In installations, photographs and exhibitions, Ralph Collier questions reality and the medium of exhibition. He reflects on what an image can and should mean in the current flood of images. But he is also fascinated by exhibitions. He studied for curator and therefore knows all the conventions and characteristics of the medium. He plays with its parameters and likes to organise encounters that put the medium to the test. For example, in this exhibition he wants to short circuit the real world and that of the news media and news editors.

Rikkert Pauw

For Rikkert Pauw, the material for his designs is simply to be found in the street, in everyday reality. For him it is obvious to use waste in combination with natural materials to create beautiful spaces. With his thorough knowledge of materials, he develops and realises sustainable solutions for self-designed furniture. He does so using a style that could be described as "the aesthetics of local waste", or even as "a squatters' version of De Stijl".

LE QUOTIDIEN  
27.10 – 07.12.2019  
opening drink Sunday 27.10 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

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