

ELLEN KOOI
As It Happens

Exhibition from March 14th to April 26th 2014



Mahon-strand, 2013, 55 x 141 cm

ELLEN KOOI

Opening Thursday 13th March from 6pm to 9pm

Les filles du calvaire gallery has the pleasure to announce Ellen Kooi's new exhibition. After the success of her retrospective in 2010 in Paris at the Dutch Institute, she's back with new pieces.

The photographs of Ellen Kooi are concerned with the symbiotic relationship between the landscape and those who enter it. Her pieces are readable as compelling poetic stories through her use of the panoramic perspective. In these stories both the landscape and the human figures in it function as protagonists. This explains the show's title - Next to Me – it refers to the slowly developing feeling of kinship with ones surroundings. People seem to be eager to establish a narrative relationship with the natural locations they encounter. The hills, forests and lakes are given names and are surrounded with numerous fantastic tales. By doing so these places are given a human meaning and become part of a collective memory. This mythologizing process stands in shrill contrast with the hardly magical reality of the urbanized Dutch landscape.

Kooi tries to envision the lyrical connection between man and nature without losing touch with the soberness of this reality. Her photographs show ritualistic acts and poetical gestures within imposing landscapes. But the nearby parking lot full of tourists or the suburbs looming on the horizon are never erased. She seems to photograph events that are usually hidden from view but which take place nonetheless. Indeed, practically nothing in these photographs has been digitally altered. She forces herself to find the perfect location and then waits for a perfect moment to take the photograph. This approach grounds these pieces in realism. The site-specificness of these photographs has found high acclaim abroad. She has mastered the technique of presenting the uniqueness of the Dutch landscape by making clever use of narrative suggestions that cross cultural boundaries. By utilizing literary and art-historical references she is able to involve a larger audience in her photographic tales.



In her latest body of work a subtle change in style is noticeable. While her earlier pieces often told their stories in a lighthearted tone,

Berck - Vallende bomen, 2013, 80 x 195,5 cm

her more recent works seem to have adapted a grander, more compelling visual language. The emotions evoked by her models seem to be emphasized by the surrounding landscapes. It looks like Kooi distills an underlying emotional current from tales of folklore and from natural lyricism in classic literature. She has found a way to spectacularly capture her own surroundings (near to her hometown of Haarlem) without losing her spectators in gaudy pomposity.

Ellen Kooi's works are collected and exhibited worldwide. In the past few years she has had solo-exhibitions in Paris, Madrid, Tokyo and New York. Her photographs can be found in many private collections as well as in public collections such as those of the ING bank, the Frans Hals Museum, the French national collection (FNAC), the Marsh-collection London and the 21c-museum in Louisville-Kentucky. Besides Next to Me and the presentation at Unseen her works her exhibition schedule for this year includes shows at the Zuiderzeemuseum, the ASU art museum in Tempe, Florida and at Camara Oscura gallery in Madrid.

Emiel van der Pol, 2012



Btower Dog uitzicht, 2013



Overveen - vogelmeer, 2013, 85 x 175 cm



Halfweg - bosrand, 2013, 85 x 175 cm

ELLEN KOOI

She's born in 1962 in Leeuwarden, Netherland

She lives and works in Haarlem, Netherland

1981 -1987	Art Academy ABK Minerva, Groningen, Netherland
1993 -1994	Graduate of Art à Rijksacademie van beeldende kunsten, Amsterdam, Netherland
Since 1996	Photography teacher at l'ABK Minerva, Groningen, Netherland

Workshops in LOKV Utrecht, Kunstacademie Arnhem, Kampen and AVS Utrecht

Exhibitions (selection)

- 2013** *La metamorfosis del paisaje en el arte*, Caja vital fondation, Victoria, Spain
Miradas de mujeres, Cantabria, Spain
Paysage fiction, Musée de Laval
- 2012** *Paysage-Fiction*, Musée de La Roche-sur-Yon, La Roche-sur-Yon
Next to me (exposiiton personnelle), Torch Gallery Amsterdam, Netherland
Sables Mouvants (exposition personnelle), Lille 3000, Le Fort de Mons, Lille
Exposition personnelle, Catharine Clark Gallery, San Francisco, USA
De kleur van water, Zuiderzeemuseum, Enkhuisen, Netherland
Latitudes Festival, Fotografía Huelva, Spain
Luz Holandesa, Espacio Liquido, Gijon, Spain
New works, Torch Gallery, (exposition personnelle), Amsterdam, Netherland
Camera Oscura, (exposition personnelle), Madrid, Spain
Performing for the Camera, ASU Art Museum, Arizona, USA
- 2011** Musée d'art contemporain Borusann Perili Köşk, Istanbul, Turkey
The International Festival of Photography of Lodz : OUT OF LIFE, Poland
Arte Esencial, Coleccion Olorvisual, Casino de la Exposición, Seville, Spain
Out of sight (exposition personnelle), Galerie du Château d'Eau, Toulouse
Photo Event Festival, Belgium
On the other side of twilight, duo-show, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherland
Foto = Kunst, Museum het Valkhof, Nimègues, Netherland
Out of sight (exposition personnelle), PPWO Gallery, New York, USA
- 2010** *Out of Sight* (exposition personnelle), Institut Néerlandais, Paris
Contriving Inquiries, Seelevel Gallery at Het Magazijn, Amsterdam, Netherland
De pictura, canon pictórico e imagen contemporánea, EMAT, Valence, Spain
Colección Norte 1996-2010, Santander, Spain
Estancias, Residencias, Presencias, Tenerife Espacio de las Artes, Spain
Out of sight (exposition personnelle), Centre d'art Image/Imatge, Orthez
- 2009** *Dutch Art, 400 years of trade relations Japan Okura hotel*, Tokyo, Japan
Signs of the Apocalypse/ Rapture, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, USA
Borrowed Landscapes, Gallery Camera Oscura, Madrid, Spain
Torch Gallery, Amsterdam, Netherland
Willem 3, Vlissingen, Netherland
- 2008** Recent Photography, Espacio Liquido, Gijon, Spain
Dentro por Fuera, Within from without, Out of sight (exposition personnelle), La Casa Encendida, Madrid, Spain
La couleur de la ville de Frize, l'art visuel après 1945, Fries Museum, Netherland
What Ever Happened to Your Dreams?, Galerie Les Filles du Calvaire, Paris
Fantasy, C'est pas du jeu !, Centre Photographique d'Ile de France, Pontault Combault, France
Catherine Clark Gallery, San Francisco, USA