S02E01: NO TIME TO WASTE

a calendar with pictures made by the artists of S02E01

elise ehr "theo demars"

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ANNUAL CALENDER
site-specific pool
= site-specific artworks

De Papiermolen is a cherished and frequently visited outdoor swimming pool, designed by the architect Jacobus Koolhaas, that officially opened in 1955. Koolhaas referred to the pool as the jewel of Groningen. The official name derives from the paper mill that was located there in the 18th and 19th century. This is not the only connection with the history of the place, architect Koolhaas drew inspiration from the surrounding areas for the design of the pool. For example, the form was inspired by the bastion of the Helperdiepje and the tribune was placed to function as a sound barrier for the neighbouring graveyard.

The three artists in residence at De Papiermolen, Théo Demans, Elise Ehry and Willem de Haan were asked to create site-specific works, just like Koolhaas created a site-specific swimming pool. The artworks they made during the residency had to withstand the weather conditions.
and water conditions and the artists had to ensure safety in anticipation of the interaction with visitors.

The artworks of Demans, Ehry and De Haan are so well made for the swimming pool that they immerse in their surroundings. 30 cm, Various Sizes created by De Haan leans on the diving boards as if the rulers were placed there in the 1950s; the sculptures Embodiment at rest by Demans melt in the heat like the regular visitors on the tanning tribune. While Demans and De Haan got inspired by the characteristics of the pool and its visitors, Ehry got inspired by the people who make a visit to the pool possible. She investigated the daily jobs of the pools’ employees and in A Pool Cosplay she shows their habits, connections and tasks in a new perspective. Who makes the swimming experience possible? Who keep the pool clean and safe, the grass fresh and green, and what happens behind the scenes?
WHAT IS THE MOST INTERESTING ASPECT ABOUT THE SWIMMING POOL TO YOU?

Elise Ehry: At the swimming pool people of different ages, social classes and cultures gather. It is not a place where all these people pass through, but they actually stay for several hours and therefore have to deal with each other.

Théo Demans: People’s bodies.

Willem de Haan: Since most visitors come to do so, obviously the right answer to this question would be: swimming in the pool. From an artistic perspective ‘swimming’ would probably take the second spot on the list of interesting aspects, right behind the odd sizes that are used to measure this pool. A lot of parts of the two meters deep pool are not really two meters deep. Something is not right here, I feel it.

THE TITLE OF THE EXHIBITION IS NO TIME TO WASTE: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE WASTE OF TIME?

Elise Ehry: Jumping into the internet.
Théo Demans: Talking about the script of a movie that will never be filmed. Pretending to have holiday’s activities just to shoot cool pictures, while we are actually almost always working on our projects.

Willem de Haan: As soon as I think of something good it’s not really a waste of time anymore. I think one of the better things I really don’t enjoy is searching for a cash machine in a foreign country. Why is cash still a thing in France? And why do I keep forgetting to prepare my wallet before going on holidays?

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

From Paris, Elise works as a situation designer using fiction to overthrow existing rules. Her fascination lies with the alienating effect of the service sector, where she investigates how social relationships are influenced by these subservient professions of characters who seem to be stuck in their role.

From the making of immersive experience to self directed spectacle, Théo has a scenographic approach of art and architecture. As co-founder of project spaces in Paris (Le Merquis) and Amsterdam (PostNorma) and nomadic recording salon “Mortal Recordings”, Théo creates its own conditions for presenting work.
"I will probably never make a good joke because for a while now I have been stuck at the point of confusion between the funny and the confusing moment." Characteristic of Willem's work are the additions to daily life situations where he blurred the line between script and reality.
THÉO DEMANS
EMBODIMENT AT REST
The regular user’s of the pool are calling the tribune: the monkey rock (In Dutch: apenrots), and everyone wonders why the staff had to paint these stairs with such a bright shiny white that you can’t even look at it when it’s sunny. I personally find the monkey rock brilliant as an ultimate tanning body display, and I also like the idea of us turning back into monkeys.

Vanessa van ‘t Hoogt: Last week on a hot July day I had time to observe the interaction...
of the pool visitors with Theo’s sculptures. Children were playing with the shapes - hiding under them and exploring the textures. The adult sunbathing public sat down besides the sculptures, mingled and even mirrored the postures of the hardened swimwear. The abstract yet organic forms became part of the tanning public, but the sculptures laid down their towel first.

Anna-Rosja Haveman: Making the tiles was a huge amount of work for Theo. When Vanessa and I visited him during the residency we saw him numbering all the tiles and shaping them according to the curves of the sculptures. In the end, you can still see some of the ‘accidents’, such as a missing tile and other irregularities. Instead of regarding them as mistakes I find them charming: they show the craft involved in the process.

Willem de Haan: “Theo’s artworks look best with a lot of tanning people around them. Make sure to visit on a sunny day. When I visited the sculptures with my mom who is blind, she really enjoyed touching the intimate sculptures: do touch.”
ELISE EHRY

A POOL COSPLAY

A few lifeguards don't even enjoy swimming.

Vanessa van 't Hoogt: The costumes are sewed and designed by Elise to be waterproof, so the snackbar chef can deliver fries to a customer on the tribune while still being protected against the fat of the frying pan. In short: fashionable and multifunctional. While watching 'A Pool Cosplay' make sure to pay attention to the attentively made costumes and their materials.

Anna-Rosja Haveman: Elise interviewed all the employees,
in her ethnographic approach she learned about all the ins and outs of their daily tasks. ‘A Pool Cosplay’ transforms this investigation into an imaginary story about the quotidian workforce and productivity at the ultimate place of leisure. If you care about workforce and productivity: do not forget to update your LinkedIn profile!

Théo Demans: Elise was a stranger, but with the aim of being an insider, which she managed pretty well and fast. Her work reveals a society of strangers who are in a state of togetherness within their corporate identity.

Willem de Haan: It takes a bit more time to see Elise’s work. Make sure to get back to the dressing room at least 20 minutes before closing time.
WILLEM DE HAAN
30 CM, VARIOUS SIZES / EPIC DIVING FAIL AT SWIMMING POOL DE PAPIERMOLEN

My personal record to cross lane 1 is just 00:34 seconds. While lane 6 is always taking me 00:38. Please, give it a try yourself.

Vanessa van ‘t Hooft: This photo from the 1970s is just a fleeting impression of the rich history of swimming competitions at...
De Papiermolen. Since the official opening in 1955 the width, depth and heights of the pool have changed. Consequently 2 meter is not 2 meter anymore and 50 meter is not quite 50 meter. Because ‘to measure is to know’ is fundamental to swimming competitions, they are no longer held at De Papiermolen.

Anna-Rosja Haveman: To encourage the daredevils Willem has uploaded a video ‘EPIC Diving Fail at De Papiermolen’. Find it yourself on YouTube before you jump!

Elise Ehry: Willem’s work questions the different scales of the swimming pool and puts into perspective the diving boards hierarchy as a place where all the jumps are measured.
map of swimming pool 'De Papiermolen'
SIDE 2
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a calender with pictures made
by the artists of S02E01