

THINK AGAIN

10/6 - 3/7/2022

Exhibition at De Meldkamer, Maastricht





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Dutch artist [Jules Coumans](#) (Maastricht, 1998) lives and works in Maastricht, the Netherlands. Currently, he is completing his BA at the Maastricht Institute of Arts. Guided and influenced by a fascination for public spaces and topics relevant to this domain, a great deal of his visual work consists of paintings, photography and sculptural pieces.

An interest in the human-made world around us is reflected in his work. Specifically, how the urban world and its architectural interventions guide us. He observes how we give a specific structure to the spaces in which we live our lives and follow the structure's rules when navigating this world. This self-regulating mechanism fascinates him enormously.

He started exploring the world around him as a freerunner and graffiti artist, gaining a certain sensibility for architecture and city planning. By regularly navigating the public domain, getting from one place to another, he started to see architecture change. Becoming less static and imposing, in his eyes the world evolved to become more playful. Jules Coumans continues to explore the world around him, endlessly walking through the city. His journeys have no destination, but focus on taking in the surroundings that fascinate him. For him this is an opportunity to reflect internally, and pursue a sense of purification.



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A journey implies the in-between: the moment of movement. Whenever Jules finds himself working in his studio, the idea, the mental image of 'the thing to be' is, and will never be, an absolute destination. The essence of the work itself lies in the experience of making. The journey is, and should always be, open ended. // julescoumans.com



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Famke Storms (Heerlen, 1997) is an artist based in the Netherlands. She lives in Heerlen, while working in Maastricht. In 2020, she graduated from the Maastricht Institute of Arts. An influential source of information, and starting point in her artistic practice, is her own atelier. Fragments of previous pieces, like paintings and paper cuttings, are constantly re-used in her work. Both two- and three-dimensional objects come together, giving shape to her installations.



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Famke Storms calls her works 'events' as they are directly inspired by what happens in her atelier. She cuts her paintings and pictures into pieces, reinforcing the material quality of these works. In this way, interfering as little as possible, she creates a chaotic atmosphere from which materials, colours and shapes emerge. Working within the field of 'the painting-object matter' (as she calls it), she moves between the manifestation of a thing in a physical space and the painted representation on a flat surface.

Famke Storms is inspired by the study of Phenomenology, which studies how we experience things. Specifically, taking from the work of Philosophers Husserl and Merleau-Ponty, Famke does not question how things exist as self-standing entities, she rather focuses on how things appear to be, existing in her own consciousness. For her, the way in which we see things depends on environmental factors, genetics and pure coincidence. By positioning objects in a room, Famke attaches human traits to the things around her. They become friendly, powerful, playful or sad. According to her, one will find that a roll of paper is much more endearing when positioned in the corner of a room compared to when it is placed in the center. With her actions, Famke creates playful events that invite visitors to look at daily objects in a new light. [//famkestorms.nl](http://famkestorms.nl)



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Dutch artist [Dirk Bours](#) (Maastricht, 1981) lives and works in Maastricht, the Netherlands. He holds a BA in Fine Arts which he obtained from the Maastricht Institute of Arts in 2010. Painter and installation artist whose artistic practice is influenced by his background in Graphic Design, Dirk Bours finds inspiration in the urban landscape, looking for ways to interact with it through his works.



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Dirk Bours explored urban environments from an early age as a skater and graffiti artist. Graffiti gave him the possibility to express himself, develop a strong interest in drawing and an increasing fascination with the visual dimension of urban spaces.

By mediating and intervening in cities, Dirk Bours investigates the materiality of painting. He is guided by the question: what does it mean to act in and through painting on the urban landscape, and what kind of action does painting suggest? His answer is a strong visual language, which reduces the urban to a minimal aesthetic. It all comes down to basic materials, constructions and shapes: pure painterly forms. It is a reaction to the urban landscape, which explores the possibilities of the medium.

For the past years, Dirk has been working with different artists, constantly challenging the idea of authorship in connection to his works. For him, the development of an artwork is not about pursuing completion. There is no logical path or inevitable ending. Potentially, a work of art can continue to change in response to the external world.

The term 'rhythmicity', coined by critic and writer Jan Verwoert, beautifully describes what Dirk seeks for in his work. For him, rhythmicity and repetition give shape to a painting. They represent the foundation of his artistic practice. It is not about taste or composition canons, it is about finding the rhythm - the 'groove' from the vibrations. // dirkbours.com



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Nieke Lemmens (Maastricht, 1963) lives and works in Heerlen. In 1988, she graduated from the Maastricht Institute of Arts. Painter and installation artist, Nieke finds inspiration in the relationship we have with the surrounding world. The use of everyday objects and different materials contributes to this impalpable connection.



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Growing up in the area of Heuvelland, she was surrounded by nature - returning rhythms, cycles and continually changing lights and shadows. Nature's balance is central to the way she relates to the world.

She questions what making a work of art means when we live in a world which is overflowing with man-made products. With her paint and installations, she develops temporary site-specific pieces. As a direct response to the surrounding environment - the architecture of a space -, they are ephemeral and changeable.

Her works are intangible, can transform over time and can even be used to create new pieces. However, in stark contrast with the immaterial core of her work, the process is earthly, as she makes her own paint by using color pigments and casein tempera.

The paint used in her works is the medium through which she integrates time, space and light - without ever depicting them directly. She refers to these elements through a minimalistic visual vocabulary made from everyday, simple materials and shapes. By using these elements she employs a universal language. // @lemmensnieke



Curated by Riet Meeus, Think Again was developed as a dialogue between artists and curator. The starting point of this conversation was the materiality, physicality and the context of each artists' work, opening up new ways of seeing and interpreting one another's artistic practice.

The title of the exhibition is taken from the homonymous book by Adam Grant. In his book, organizational psychologist Adam Grant defines the art of rethinking, learning to question your opinions and open people's eyes to new perspectives. Different factors influence the way we see and experience things and, since these are subject to constant fluctuation, our perception can change.

The exhibition starts by showing the works of two artists, Jules Coumans and Famke Storms. Each will invite another artist into the exhibition space, who will add their own works and their own point of view to the display, influencing the exhibition as a whole. In this way, the display will develop over the course of the exhibition, constantly challenging our point of view.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Think Again is the second of the exhibition series 'Art through the window' initiated by the Artist and the Others. The aim is to provide space for emerging talents working in the city of Maastricht while promoting the creation of fair art practices within the artistic field.

The project gives more visibility to artists from Maastricht and creates connections to curators in the Euregion. By strengthening the professional relationship with artists, professionals, initiatives and institutions, we enhance artistic cooperation between different cities of the Euregion. The project is supported by the Municipality of Maastricht.

ABOUT THE CURATOR

Independent curator Riet Meeus is dedicated to supporting and promoting emerging artists, transdisciplinary art, and making art accessible to the broader public. As well as working as a curator, Riet Meeus works as a project manager at VONK. VONK offers workspaces to promising visual artists and residencies for national and international artists who work on the crossover between performance and visual arts. Through VONK and her curatorial practice, Riet Meeus supports young talented artists by providing opportunities for them to increase their outreach and broaden their networks.

Open 10 June until 3 July on Saturday and Sundays • from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

and on request • email to ronja@theartistandtheothers.nl

De Meldkamer • Capucijnenstraat 21 • Maastricht • Free Entrance

