

NF PRESENTS: FROM A TO BE TO SEE TO D

Group exhibition by **Evita Vasiljeva, Nicholas Riis, Adriel van Drimmelen and Frederique Pisuise**

kim? Contemporary Art Centre
2 May – 1 June 2014

In response to the classical artist's role in society where the central belief lies with art and the conviction of its ability to change the world, the exhibition deals with generous art, in the proximity of which the visitor is invited to discover something new about him or herself, without losing a feeling of safety and protection. The basis of the exhibition is formed by conversations and at least four different voices that have united in a group exhibition, thus creating a cohesive event. *NF* stands for everything that starts with *N* or *F*. *NF* is like a moment-photo of the participants' faces – and they are not afraid to look younger, more naive, or truer than in real life. Progressing from the internal outward, the exhibition refers to the time passed in art movements, and uses the method of idea collision to ask questions that never lose importance – such as *kim?* (Latvian for *Kas ir māksla?* – 'What is art?').

The exhibition where nothing moves from A to B is operated by it's participants:

Nicholas Riis plays himself: mostly separated from the group by geographical distance. Functions as an invisible force behind *NF*. Does he feel for *NF* as much as *NF* misses him, or is his absence just a projection?

For *NF* Nicholas Riis is working within the territory between sculpture and furniture. Objects are made and arranged according to the logic of furniture which creates a semi-domestic environment while also playing with and against modernist notions of sculpture. Color, pattern and form echo and clash giving his works a palpable feeling that they are in a state flux. Riis addresses distinguishable objects as things in a fluid state of multiplicity. In addition, the pieces are inspired by Riis's childhood, home video archive which gives the impression that he's projecting a sense of self-hood onto the objects.

Evita Vasiljeva plays herself: needs input by others in order to formulate her thoughts and mostly disagrees with fellow *NF* members. Will not formulate anything on behalf of *NF*, but isn't her personal opinion *NF*?

The making of a piece, the process of a production of an object, when one is coming into the world, being shaped and framed, is again a central subject of Vasiljeva's work. In the new series exhibited here she explores the making of a work as the work by adding water and plaster to it. Sculptures are left cut open on the plastic surgery tables surrounded by all the questions supposedly not to be ask, things not to be seen.

Adriel van Drimmelen plays himself: formulates things in a way too personal and precise. Feels responsible for *NF* in formulating what *NF* is about. Functions as a reality check – or is he simply afraid?

"The two great causes, which conspire with each other to shorten life, says Lord *Verlaum*, are first —'The internal spirit, which, like a gentle flame, wastes the body down to death:—And secondly, the external air, that parches the body up to ashes:—which two enemies attacking us on both sides of our bodies together, at length destroy our organs and render them unfit to carry on the functions of life.'

This being the state of the case, the road to Longevity was plain; nothing more being required, says his lordship, but to repair the waste committed by the internal spirit, by making the substance of it more thick and dense, by a regular course of opiates on one side, and by refrigerating the heat of it on the other, by three grains and a half of salt-petre every morning before you got up.—

Still this frame of yours was left exposed to the inimical assaults of the air without;—but this was fenced off again by a course of greasy unctions, which so fully saturated the pores of the skin, that no spicula could enter;—nor could any get out.—This put a stop to all perspiration, sensible and

insensible, which being the cause of so many scurvy distempers—a course of clysters was requisite to carry off redundant humours,—and render the system complete."
(excerpt from Laurence Sterne -The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentlemen)

Frederique Pisuisse tries to hold on to her illusions of *NF* as a group. Functions as a moderator within *NF* but always fails to remember the essence – or is there no such thing?

In the exhibition Frederique Pisuisse investigates a series of videos translated into sculptures. It is the decomposition of three-dimensionality, in which time or movement manifests itself as a solid shape. The movement that is traditionally formed in the mind of the viewer, gets a stature and personality. The solidified appearances that have a certain endlessness in them become theatrical characters. The various scenes relate both poetic and formally to each other.

Artists' biographies:

Evita Vasiljeva (Riga, 1985) is a sculptor based in Amsterdam. Last year she graduated from the Gerrit Rietveld Academy, Fine Arts Department, with an outstanding sculptural installation. Evita has participated in numerous shows in the Netherlands, Germany, Latvia and Sweden. Together with Nicholas Riis she cofounded the artist initiative *Last Minute Group*, organizing unofficial shows that took place every Saturday in the building of the Gerrit Rietveld Academy.

Nicholas Riis (Oslo, 1987) is a multimedia artist based in Oslo and Amsterdam. Mostly, he creates psychologically intensive video installations. This year he graduated from the Gerrit Rietveld Academy and was nominated for the Fine Arts prize for his work and his final thesis. Nicholas was a "partner in crime" with Evita Vasiljeva when they founded *Last Minute Group* and organized unofficial shows that took place every Saturday in the building of the Gerrit Rietveld Academy. He is also the founder and curator of Kazachenko's Apartment, an artist-run space located in the centre of Oslo.

Adriel van Drimmelen (Memphis, 1974) is a painter based in Amsterdam. It is actually inaccurate to call him a painter because he is involved in lots of different fields. He has curated shows and has participated in a plethora of diverse art projects. Adriel teaches at the Gerrit Rietveld Academy. Duty and position are undermined in favour of profitable versions of sabotage and digression. He loves to ask rhetorical questions and acts as a contemporary tinker.

Frederique Pisuisse (Groningen, 1986) is a multi-media artist. Frederique graduated from the Image and Language Department at the Gerrit Rietveld Academy in 2013 with a video-installation. She has previously exhibited in the Galerie Fons Welters together with Evita Vasiljeva. They have worked together on several performances and exhibitions.

Supporters: Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia, kultura.lv, the State Culture Capital Foundation (SCCF), Riga City Council, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Riga, ABSOLUT., *Valmiermuižas alus*, *VivaColor*, *Spīķeri*, Gaismas Stils, Gētes Institūts, TNT, VKN, *Delfi*.

kim?

kim? Contemporary Art Centre

Maskavas Street 12/1, Riga

kim@kim.lv

www.kim.lv

Opening hours:

Mon: closed

Tue.: 12:00 – 20:00

Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun: 12.00 – 18.00 3.00 EUR

Students, senior citizens: 1.50 EUR

Free on Tuesdays