

MINI SYMPOSIUM July 8th Ellen de Bruijne projects
Saccadic Sightings: Einstein & Bohr, Rune Peitersen

Initiated in 2008, *Saccadic Sightings* began as a study of visual perception. Using a Mobile Eye, a scientific eye tracking device, Peitersen was able to film his field of view while simultaneously capturing the exploratory movements of his eye. He was interested in the 'raw' visual input captured by the retina before it was interpreted and processed into experience by the brain. Underlying this project were questions raised by quantum mechanics concerning e.g. the Uncertainty Principle and whether or not it is possible to speak of a world separate from our observation of it.

During his research Peitersen started looking into the way in which we construct our reality. Besides the physiological and psychological aspects of perception, scientific paradigms determine our view of the world. Peitersen became intrigued by how outdated but popular paradigms have developed into inflexible dogmas. The materialistic dualism of Rene Descartes, which presupposes a strict division of mind and matter, is such a dogma, which although discredited decennia ago by quantum physics, by thinkers such as Einstein and Bohr and more recently by neurological research, still remains the most commonly accepted and widely held world view. This raises the questions of why such a world view persists and what can be done to substitute it with a more adequate construction. Furthermore, Peitersen became convinced that it is art which shapes our understanding of reality. By formulating questions about perception, by visualizing conceptual constructions and making these constructions manifest in the world, art plays a much more fundamental part in the construction of our collective reality than we usually realize.

These are the considerations underlying the most recent work, and they will be the starting point of a public discussion in the gallery on Thursday July 8th

The questions/statements I wish to reflect upon are:

- Why does the Cartesian construction of reality still exert so much influence and what are the consequences thereof for how we think about science and art?
- What would it take to destabilize this worldview and replace it with another, more adequate construction?
- Which part might art play in this? Is it not so that art in particular is capable of shaping our idea about reality? And possibly functions as a precursor to the constructions as they are formulated by science and technology?
- And, if so, which role does science play within the artistic domain. What sort of transformations are possible?

Program:

19.30

Doors open

20.00

Mariska van den Berg (freelance curator | editor) gives a brief introduction.

Rune reflects upon dualism as perpetuated by the movies *The Matrix* and *Avatar*.

20.15-21.30

The speakers:

André Klukhuhn

The joint evolution of consciousness and space

“(…) concerning the construction of the world by our consciousness. The people of antiquity, the middle ages, and of the renaissance experienced the world differently from us.” According to Klukhuhn, our (developing) consciousness and our experience of space and time are closely connected (Kant supplemented by Darwin).

Saskia Monshouwer

Saskia Monshouwer will present her recent essay *Kunst, context, wetenschap. Mogelijke consequenties van het denken (over zien) (Art, context, science. (Over looking) the possible consequences for thinking)*, written for the occasion. During this evening's discussion Monshouwer will examine the following position: Due to the relation between both society and the public, art is able to mediate between science and society, and *possibly* destabilize an accepted worldview.

Rune Peitersen

Contact - Art as the Outer Limits of the Universe – what is the function of art? Is art capable of shaping our idea about reality? And does it function as a precursor to the construction of reality?

Robert Zwijnenberg

Robert Zwijnenberg brings together art, humanities en science so that they may learn from each other. According to Zwijnenberg, this interaction can produce new forms of art as well as new theories and methodologies. This evening he will reflect upon the role of science within the artistic domain: What sort of transformations are possible?

21.30 – 23.00

The guests and public are involved in the discussion.

Moderated by Mariska and Rune.

Ellen de Bruijne Projects

Rozengracht 207 A

1016 LZ Amsterdam,

The Netherlands

www.edbprojects.nl