

THE EYE OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Art Rotterdam 1 – 4 July – a festive weekend for those who love art, photography, design and much more.

JOHN DEVOS - JULY 1, 2021

The end of the new normal? Entering the realm of the new freedom? Change is probably symbolized by the first art fair in Rotterdam from 1 to 4 July. Art Rotterdam is not exclusively devoted to photography (we have to wait till Unseen Amsterdam from 17 to 19 September in the Westergas), but still Rotterdam offers a wide selection of photography on and round the fair. Moreover the weekend offers a lot of animation spread throughout the city: the Art Rotterdam fair, the National Photo Museum, the galleries including the new Kahmann gallery, the design and interior fair Object to name just a few. In three contributions we try to give you an idea.

Not convinced? Art Rotterdam offers a lot : 10,000m² of exhibition space, about 100 galleries, an estimated 4 to 500 artists in the official section, numerous side events on the festival site and beyond AND a selection of young talent (the Mondriaan Fund gives young artists the opportunity to come forward for the first time in a fair within the fair) The majority of the galleries are of course Dutch, but there is also a large international representation. Now the presence of those galleries from France, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, Austria, Slovenia and Slovakia are to me proof that there really something happening.

The location of the fair is a sufficient motive to travel to Rotterdam: the Van Nelle factory is a building designed by Leendert van der Vlugt (1894-1936) & Johannes Brinkman (1902-1949) and was realized in the period 1925-31. At that time, Van Nelle was a global player in the trade in "colonial commodities", coffee, tea and tobacco. The building is a world-class monument of functionalism, the New Building (das Neues Bauen) and is contemporary to the New Objectivity (Neue Sachlichkeit/ Nouvelle Objectivité) where a new sense of space was created using reinforced concrete. It was recognized in 2014 as a monument on the Unesco World Heritage List. It radiated optimism and positivism, and a certain visitor named Le Corbusier (1887-1965) stated:

"In Rotterdam you have a wonderful proof of life to come! Of a purity, so unconditionally pure!"

Binome Galerie

For Art Rotterdam Galerie Binome is presenting DOMINANT SUNS, a duo show by artists Laurence Aëgerter and Mustapha Azeroual, whose protean works revisit traditional creative processes, such as tapestry or gum bichromate, in a very contemporary approach. In dialogue with the great builders of cathedrals or modern painters, the works translate a form of obsessive relationship with light.

Mustapha Azeroual (1979) French-Moroccan

Mustapha Azeroual is a self-taught photographer. A scientist by training, his research is based on the observation of processes of appearance of the image and its manifestations, transmitted to the viewer through experimentation with the media of distribution. Combining installation, volume and sequence with old photographic processes, he updates the historical techniques of photography and printing, while opening up the field of investigation of the photographic image beyond its presupposed limits (flatness and temporality). The question of the photographic and the materiality of the image is at the heart of his creative process. Radiance is an inventory of the colours of light at sunset, a key moment in the day with regard to chromatic 8

Laurence Aëgerter – (1972) Lives & works in Marseille & Amsterdam

Sometimes solemn, sometimes playful, Laurence Aëgerter's works question the signifying power of the images that surround us and that often overtake us, unconsciously, which she declines in the form of intimist or monumental pieces in photography, in situ installations, collaborative projects, or even artist's books.

<https://galeriebinome.com/contact/>