

Where have all the artists gone?



'Overgave' by Frode Bolhuis

photo: Marshall Erskine

To celebrate their anniversary, the artists of the Xpositron group opened their studios to the public on Sunday 17 October, and inaugurated their exhibition, 'Boundaries,' in situ until 22 October (12:00 – 17:00). 'Boundaries' incorporates works from many of the Xpositron artists, such as the stark, stunning sculpture, 'Overgave' by Frode Bolhuis and the award winning 'Cell-carpet' by Lama Concept.

Text: Kim Chandler

The Xpositron is home to many artists; the work is conceptually modern with a lovely sense of the eclectic. Leather designer, Noor Wentholt, began designing clothes and jewellery design before moving to leather. Her work is sumptuous, sexy and hip. Excitingly, her work is going to be available at the Stedelijk Museum Store from November.

The handmade, painted handbags created by Margot Verhoeven of Margot Margot (www.margotmargot.nl) are funky, fun and original while being exquisitely functional. Another of the artists, James Arthur has, incredibly, only been painting for four years. His piece 'Mergeboorte' is particularly affecting.

Machiel Haasbroek of CONVORM furniture and interior design works at his studio for part of each month, the rest of the time, and "I work for Gucci doing the windows for the stores in Amsterdam, Brussels and Antwerp." His work is innovative and exciting. Another surprise was finding the magnificent recording studio Heartland Studios on the ground floor. Wilmer Wolf, producer and engineer at Heartland proudly noted, "We record a lot of Dutch bands. Beef recorded their latest album here."

The beautiful project space and canteen is extremely

well used by the artists of Xpositron for art exhibitions and is also available to rent by outside artists and companies with a view to help Xpositron grow. Performance artist, Saskia te Dorsthorst, opened the show to the nearly seven hundred guests, and later noted, "It's important to respect one another and take advantage of each other's differences and knowledge. We aim to make this world a more positive place through our work." And are they accomplishing their aims? "We've been supported by both the City of Amsterdam (broedplaatsen), Imca Vastgoed B.V. and the public. Most importantly we hope and wish they'll learn from us and see that there's a different way of treating each other and working together."

Stichting Xpositron was initially located in inner Amsterdam but at the end of 2001 had to move due to city renovation plans. The group of artists was assisted by the councillors of Projectgroep Broedplaatsen in Amsterdam who promised that, if the group could find a suitable building, they would subsidise the rent. Within a month a building was found at the Elektronstraat 12-14. Erik de Vlieter, proprietor of the Imca Vastgoed group (owners of The Amsterdam Times and The Hague Times), was known to be in support of free spaces for artists. He agreed to lower the price of the rent on the condition that Xpositron was a success. And what a success it is!

The large halls, divided into studios of useable sizes, first began to be rented in February 2003. After one and a half years there is an extremely strong synergy between all the artists, with individual and collaborating artists often working together on exhibitions and design competitions. Where have all artists gone? They've gone to the Isolatorweg, together!

For more information:

www.xpositron.nl, www.frodebolhuis.nl,
www.lamacconcept.nl, www.jamesarthur.nl,
www.ignoor.com,
www.heartlandstudio.nl