

- Press information -

PETER SCHLOSS *THIS IS JUST A TEST*

**Curated by Christoph Platz
CBK Nijmegen (Netherlands)
31 January – 14 March 2010
Opening: Sunday, 31 January, 15h**

THIS IS JUST A TEST is the title of a solo exhibition of the work of artist Peter Schloss (*1974 in Bochum), on view from 31 January at the Visual Arts Centre Nijmegen (CBKN). The CBKN is housed in an inner-city building that served as a branch of the Dutch National Bank from the 1950s until recently. Stemming from the early days are an underground vault and a fallout shelter – the latter a relic of the Cold War.

These historically contaminated rooms in the basement of the building, strictly sealed off from the public in their original functions, form the setting for new installations by Peter Schloss. Taking as his point of departure the architecture of these special-use rooms, functional and yet with tellingly absurd details, Peter Schloss develops an experimental set-up consisting of walk-in cubicles made of various materials. Once inside, visitors are invited to partake in thought experiments – theoretical ponderings that, set as they are in a former bank building, manifestly address aspects of the distribution of material and non-material goods.

Providing the springboard here is the utopian demand for a fair distribution of global resources resulting in equal opportunities for all, as formulated for example by the American philosopher John Rawls in the early 1970s. Schloss takes this ethical and moral theme complex, just as pertinent today as ever, beyond the pure conceptual level, adding a sensual aesthetic component to inspire thought experiments that appeal to the individual imagination of the exhibition visitor. Challenged to explore the installed cubes, viewers are offered the opportunity to switch between an interior and exterior perspective, to enter into reflections on the distribution of goods, on exclusion mechanisms, egotism and social engagement, playing through various options for their own thinking and actions. By assuming the role of test subject in these artistic laboratories, each visitor is asked to take a stand on fundamental global social issues, brought down here from the realm of examining abstract models to the level of the individual reality we live in.

The exhibition *THIS IS JUST A TEST* is a cooperation between the CBKN and the German-Dutch Euregio project *smax* (2009-2012). *smax* offers practice-oriented twelve-month fellowships for young German and Dutch curators. The fellows develop and realize contemporary art projects for various cultural venues on both sides of the border, accompanied by an unusual range of mediation opportunities guided by the artists themselves.

smax is sponsored by INTERREG/Euregio.