

Éen Braakliggende Terrein

Occasioned by the redevelopment of the Paleiskwartier district, the s'-Hertogenbosch Stedelijk Museum (Sm's) is now marooned amidst a *Éen Braakliggende terrein* or a wasteland. In mid-January 2012 the Sm's is vacating its existing site and moving to the museum quarter in the town centre where it is scheduled to open its doors in July. This relocation has provided a perfect opportunity to cast the spotlight onto the local environs and the Museum itself, and to examine the transformation and change of use of such places and non-places. It is against this background that the curators of the smax project chose to invite Lara Almarcegui to participate in a solo exhibition - an artist who has consistently interrogated the identity and the significance of place in her oeuvre.

In addition to the new work fashioned as a response to the site, *Éen Braakliggende terrein naast Stedelijk Museum*, the exhibition will also unveil previous works by the winner of the "Dolf Henkes Prize".

Matériaux de construction Dijon centre historique (Dijon 2005), for example, is a calculation of the weight of construction materials of Dijon's historical centre. Following her in-depth study of the construction and development plans, she meticulously drew up an inventory of its "constituent parts" which are presented here.

The materiality of the building's fabric is explored more intensively by Lara Almarcegui in her slide projections which are distributed across the space. The three series of images show the artist removing the floor in the various exhibition rooms (Sala Moncada, Barcelona 2003; Kunst Rai, Amsterdam 2004; Secession, Vienna 2010) before re-laying it again. By virtue of these projections, the visitor is afforded an insight into the active interventions in the existing architecture and an opportunity to chart their progression. On closer inspection, the traces of the past can also be discovered on the Museum premises. Originally constructed and operated as a pharmaceuticals production plant, it was converted into a museum a few years ago, which, in its current guise, inspired the work *Éen Braakliggende terrein naast Stedelijk Museum*: Following exhaustive research, a folder has been created which, notwithstanding the factual inventory of building materials and components, has captured the very essence of the wasteland. At the same time, the work is also a response to the changing aesthetics of this location, and during the course of the exhibition, some sections of the site will, of course, make way for the planned new buildings. Thus the artist succeeds not only in bringing into sharper focus the urban renewal, but also in highlighting the quality of the unused areas and their significance for the topography of local townscape.

Above all, Lara Almarcegui's work *Éen Braakliggende terrein naast Stedelijk Museum* should be read as an invitation to explore these wastelands - whose visual aspect and character are constantly changing in the wake of the restructuring measures.

Curated by Carla Donauer, Alexandra Landre and Jasmin Makkt, *Éen Braakliggende Terrein* is a collaborative project launched on the initiative of the Sm's and the German-Dutch Euregio Culture Project smax (2009-2012). The core mission of smax is to foster young German and Dutch artists and curators at the project centre of Schloss Ringenberg. www.schloss-ringenberg.de