

WIELS presents a crucial artistic figure from the post-war years of protest and revolt

JACQUELINE DE JONG

The Ultimate Kiss

01_05_2021 – 15_08_2021

WIELS presents the first institutional solo exhibition of Dutch artist Jacqueline de Jong in Belgium, one of the crucial artistic figures from the post-war years of protest and revolt.

Born in the Netherlands in 1939, De Jong is a key figure of the European post-war avant-garde with a career spanning half a century. Her role in the Situationist International marked her early years in Paris in the 1960s, where she was actively involved in the student protests of May 68. In parallel to her work as an editor and designer - most notably for *The Situationist Times*, which she founded and published from 1962 until 1967 - De Jong has developed a unique painterly practice. In its spontaneity, De Jong's expressive, often grotesque and excessive style follows the anti-academic and non-conformist aesthetic of the avant-garde.

Playfully moving between styles and painterly idioms throughout her career, the artist displays a voracious interest in the painted image as a site for confusion and subversion. She belongs to a group of artists who reintroduced narration by borrowing elements from popular culture, cinema, and illustration—all the while mixing the absurd with the mysterious. With a penchant for experimentation, De Jong plays with shape, style, and pictorial idioms in order to unfold an idiosyncratic and subversive body of work. Expressive yet realistic, her work exhibits uninhibited eroticism and sexual liberation.

The exhibition at WIELS offers an occasion to discover or rediscover De Jong's prolific and provocative oeuvre via a non-linear presentation where works from different periods dialogue with one another, following a concept held dear to the artist: that of the *dérive* (drift).

Curated by Devrim Bayar (Curator, WIELS) and Xander Karskens (Director, De Ateliers). The exhibition will travel to MOSTYN where the exhibition is curated by Juliette Desorgues (Curator of Visual Arts, MOSTYN) (18-09-2021 – 16-01-2022), and to Kunstmuseum Ravensburg in 2022 (12-03 – 19-06-2022).

With the support of Mondriaan Fonds, the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Brussels, Pippy Houldsworth Gallery and Dürst Britt & Mayhew.

At the occasion of the exhibition, **an important monograph** is published in collaboration with the Mercatorfonds. The publication is designed by Eurogroupe and includes essays by Devrim Bayar, Juliette Desorgues, Xander Karskens, Annabelle Ténèze and Niña Weijers, as well as a conversation between Jacqueline de Jong and Alison Gingeras.

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PRACTICAL

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WWW.WIELS.ORG

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Open Tuesday > Sunday, 11:00-18:00
Tickets available online at WIELS.org

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ABOUT WIELS

WIELS is the leading Centre for Contemporary Art in Brussels. Its ambitious exhibitions and side programme highlight contemporary artists and new ideas, offering new perspectives and experiences. Each year WIELS welcomes some twenty artists in residence from Belgium and all over the world in a six months exchange program. WIELS also offers an intense learning, mediation and education programme pursued through workshops, sensory training projects, seminars and tours for children, teenagers, seniors, school groups, community organisations. The diversity and the specificity of the activities of WIELS, take place in a remarkable landmark building, all which makes it a unique institution for contemporary art in the European capital.