



MAUMAUS
Residency Programme

Lumiar Cité

Rua Tomás del Negro, 8A
1750-105 Lisbon

Wednesday to Sunday, 3pm to 7pm
or by appointment
Tel: + 351 21 755 15 70 / 21 352 11 55
lumiar.cite@maumaus.org
www.maumaus.org

OBSTAKLES

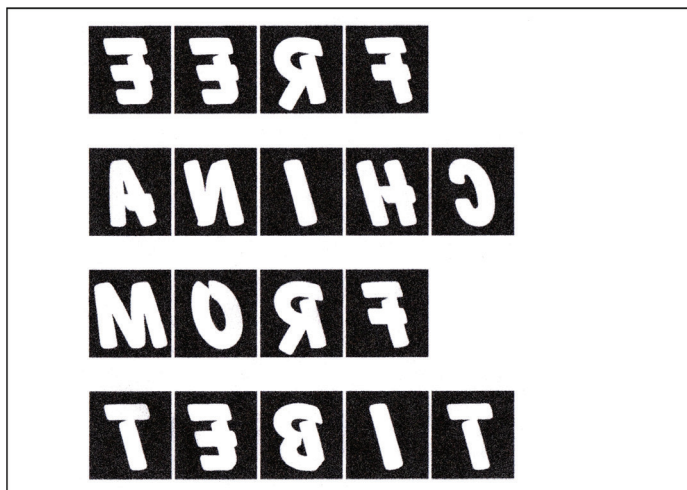
17.12.2022 – 19.03.2023

an exhibition by Willem Oorebeek

Artistic director: Jürgen Bock

Produced by Maumaus/Lumiar Cité,
in the framework of the Maumaus Residency Programme.

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and Junta de Freguesia do Lumiar.



Willem Oorebeek's practice is rooted in an in-depth investigation of typefaces, texts and images in print media, and manifests itself in carefully developed artworks, installations and exhibitions. Through his distinctive *modus operandi*, Oorebeek has achieved a unique position in the international universe of contemporary art.

In his solo exhibition at Lumiar Cité, Willem Oorebeek presents a set of works carefully chosen or produced considering the specific conditions of the exhibition space. Oorebeek's interventions unfold around slogans, popular print aesthetics and political communication with works presented inside the gallery, on its large glass façade and in the surrounding area.

While the gallery's glass façade presents a large-scale vinyl advertising a famous political statement visually, while its content is absurdly inverted, the multiple prints inside invite a close scrutiny of the conditions of the portrayed and the aesthetic issues that the communicative structures of election posters evoke. They also draw attention to the design decisions regarding the use of typefaces and images to achieve specific goals, which remind us of how communicative structures are understood and applied by producers who wrap (political) messages in such a way they are instantly decipherable. In current times of an apparent addiction to information the recognisability of a specific genre – be it political campaigns, edited press releases or exhibition invitation cards – seems to be crucial for what is considered efficient communication. Art, and some forms of advertising, allow for or knowingly apply what could be detours, leading to deferred understandings of the messages conveyed. Other areas cannot afford such detours, as their messages need to be understood immediately, which is the eternal modern problem of attempting to overcome the inherent ambiguity of language and signs.

We incessantly produce pictures in our here and now, of our worlds, but to which extent do these in turn construct our worlds? Through elaborate processes of repetition and superimposition, Oorebeek speculates on the position of the portrait in art history, making visible power dynamics and means by which these are communicated. Also visible is the voluntary vulnerability of the portrayed, who find themselves in front of a camera in multiple ways: how they are, how they want to be perceived and how the photographer and designer perceives them.

About the artist

Willem Oorebeek (Pernis, The Netherlands, 1953) lives and works in Brussels. In 1997, he represented The Netherlands at the 47th Venice Biennale alongside Aernout Mik. Notable numerous solo exhibitions include those at Greylight Projects (Heerlen, 2020), Sundogs (Paris, 2018), Yale Union (Portland, 2015), Museum Boijmans van Beuningen (Rotterdam, 2015, 1996-1999, 1988), Culturgest (Lisbon, 2008) and Stedelijk Museum (Ghent, 2006). His work has been featured in numerous group exhibitions, including at the Fundació Antoni Tàpies (Barcelona), Generali Foundation (Vienna), Kunstverein Harburger Bahnhof (Hamburg), Kunstverein Düsseldorf, Midway Contemporary Art (Minneapolis), Triennale India (New Delhi), Taipei Biennial and Witte de With (Rotterdam).

The artist and the artistic director are available for interviews or guided tours to the exhibition.



Willem Oorebeek, *Obstakles*, 2022
Willem Oorebeek-1.tiff



Willem Oorebeek, *Obstakles*, 2022
Willem Oorebeek-2.tiff



Willem Oorebeek, Obstakles, 2022
Willem Oorebeek-3.tiff



Willem Oorebeek, Obstakles, 2022
Willem Oorebeek-4.tiff



Willem Oorebeek, *Obstakles*, 2022
Willem Oorebeek-5.tiff



Willem Oorebeek, *Obstakles*, 2022
Willem Oorebeek-6.tiff



Willem Oorebeek, *Obstakles*, 2022
Willem Oorebeek-7.tiff



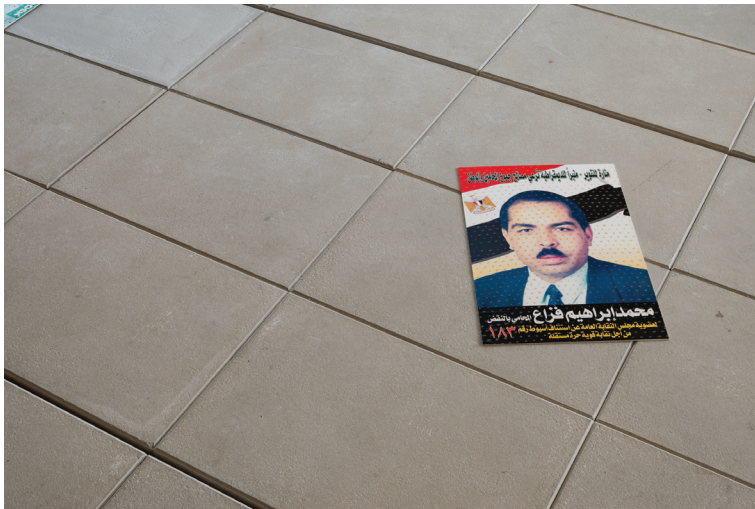
Willem Oorebeek, Obstakles, 2022
Willem Oorebeek-8.tiff



Willem Oorebeek, Obstakles, 2022
Willem Oorebeek-9.tiff



Willem Oorebeek, Obstakles, 2022
Willem Oorebeek-10.tiff



Willem Oorebeek, Obstakles, 2022
Willem Oorebeek-11.tiff



Willem Oorebeek, Obstakles, 2022
Willem Oorebeek-12.tiff



Willem Oorebeek, *Obstakles*, 2022
Willem Oorebeek-13.tiff



Willem Oorebeek, Obstakles, 2022
Willem Oorebeek-14.tiff



Willem Oorebeek, Obstakles, 2022
Willem Oorebeek-15.tiff

For further information please contact:

Carlos Alberto Carrilho

carlos.carrilho@maumaus.org | +351 21 352 11 55

Maumaus

Avenida António Augusto de Aguiar, 148 - 3º C, 1050-021 Lisbon

www.maumaus.org



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