

I Piccoli Pupazzi Sporchi di Truppà

Jos de Gruyter & Harald Thys

**November 21 / December 19
2015**

SANT'ANDREA DE SCAPHIS
JOS DE GRUYTER & HARALD THYS
I PICCOLI PUPAZZI SPORCHI DI PRUPPÀ
NOVEMBER 21 – DECEMBER 19, 2015

I Piccoli Pupazzi Sporchi di Pruppà

In 2012, 30 life-size puppets were made from jute and straw.

This number grew to 54 in the course of 2013. This series of puppets was called Die Schmutzigen Puppen von Pommern, after a region extending across northern Germany and Poland.

In the spring of 2015 it was decided that a large number of small puppets were to be manufactured from the same material, providing that each should not exceed 35 cm and have a totally different character from one another. A team of six people worked on this series for about 3,000 hours in a small workshop at the canal in Brussels.

The undertaking was completed on November 13, 2015. The result was 164 puppets.

The work was titled I Piccoli Puppazzi Sporchi di Pruppà, after a small hamlet in the southeast of Italy, not far from the town of Stilo.

Jos de Gruyter (b. 1965) and Harald Thys (b. 1966), who have collaborated together since the late 1980s, have held solo exhibitions at MoMA PS1 (2015), The Power Station, Dallas (2015), CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco (2015), Kunsthalle Wien (2014), M HKA, Antwerp (2013), Mu.ZEE, Ostend (2012), Kunsthalle Basel (2010) and Culturgest, Lisbon (2009). They live and work in Brussels.

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I Piccoli Pupazzi Sporchi di Pruppà

Nel 2012 furono creati 30 pupazzi a grandezza naturale in iuta e paglia.

Nel corso del 2013 questo numero aumentò a 54. La serie di pupazzi fu chiamata Die Schmutzigen Puppen von Pommern, in riferimento a una regione tra la Germania del Nord e la Polonia.

Nella primavera del 2015 si decise di fabbricare un ampio numero di pupazzi nello stesso materiale, a patto che la loro dimensione non eccedesse i 35 cm e che ciascuno mantenesse caratteristiche ben distinte. Una squadra di sei persone ha lavorato a questa serie per almeno 3,000 ore in un piccolo laboratorio sul canale di Bruxelles.

Quest'impresa si è conclusa il 13 Novembre 2015. Il risultato: 164 pupazzi.

Il lavoro è stato intitolato I Piccoli Puppazzi Sporchi di Pruppà, in riferimento a una piccola contrada del Sud-Est italiano, non lontano dalla città di Stilo.

Jos de Gruyter (b. 1965) e Harald Thys (b. 1966) collaborano insieme dalla fine degli anni '80. Hanno avuto mostre personali da Raven Row, Londra; MoMA PSI, NY; Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna; M HKA, Antwerp; Kunsthalle Basilea; Culturgest, Lisbona e hanno partecipato alla Biennale di Venezia (2013) e alla Biennale di Berlino (2008). De Gruyter e Thys vivono e lavorano a Bruxelles.

JOS & HARALD

Born 1965 & 1966

Live and work in Brussels

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2016 CAC, Vilnius, Lithuania
- 2015 Raven Row, London, UK
MCA, Chicago, IL
MoMA PS1, New York
The Power Station, Dallas, TX
CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, CA
Piccoli Pupazzi Sporchi di Pruppa, Sant'Andrea de Scaphis, Rome, Italy
- 2014 1646, The Hague, The Netherlands
Das Wunder des Lebens, Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna, Austria
Die schmutzigen Puppen von Pommern, Art Unlimited / Art 41 Basel, Basel, Switzerland
Die schmutzigen Puppen von Pommern, Galerie Micheline Szwajcer, Antwerp, Belgium
- 2013 Optimundus, M HKA, Antwerp, Belgium
- 2012 Les énigmes de Saarlouis, Galerie Micheline Szwajcer, Antwerp, Belgium
Objects as Friends, Culturgest, Porto, Portugal
Objecten als Vrienden, Mu.ZEE, Ostend, Belgium
- 2011 Im Reich der Sonnenfinsternis, Galerie Isabella Bortolozzi, Berlin, Germany
Das Loch, NAK, Aachen, Germany
Objekte als Freunde, kestnergesellschaft, Hanover, Germany
- 2010 Projekt 13, Kunsthalle Basel, Basel, Switzerland
Das Loch, Art Unlimited / Art 41 Basel, Basel, Switzerland
- 2009 Culturgest, Lisbon, Portugal
Pro Choice, Vienna, Austria
Dépendance, Brussels, Belgium
- 2008 Ten Weyngaert, Galerie Isabella Bortolozzi, Berlin, Germany
- 2007 Dr Curlet reçoit Jos de Gruyter et Harald Thys, FRAC Ile-de-France Le Plateau, Paris, France – with François Curlet
Artspeak, Vancouver, Canada
- 2004 The 48 hours of Kwik and Kwak, Etablissement d'en face projects, Brussels, Belgium
- 2002 The Spinning Wheel, Middelheimmuseum, Antwerp, Belgium

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2015 Slip of the Tongue, Punta della Dogana, Venice, Italy – curated by Dahn Vo & Caroline Bourgeois
CAC, Vilnius, Lithuania
Unorthodox, Jewish Museum, New York, NY – curated by Kelly Taxter, Jens Hoffmann, and Daniel S. Palmer
- 2014 Petals on the Wind, Galerie Micheline Szwajcer, Antwerp, Belgium
Puddle, pothole, portal, SculptureCenter, Long Island City, NY – curated by Ruba Katrib & Camille Henrot
I would prefer not to, Stedelijk Museum Bureau Amsterdam (SMBA), Amsterdam, The Netherlands – curated by Stefanie Humbert & Stephanie Noach
The Hawker, Carlos/Ishikawa, London, UK – curated by dépendance
Forcefield - drawing show, A.VE.NU.DE.JET.TE - Institut de Carton vzw, Brussels, Belgium
Small Museum for the American Metaphor, REDCAT, Los Angeles, CA – curated by Kersten Geers
Emoties in de hedendaagse kunst, Gemeentemuseum Helmond, The Netherlands
Progress and Hygiene, Zachęta National Gallery of Art, Warsaw - curated by Anda Rottenberg
La référence d'objet n'est pas définie à une instance d'objet, Galerie Edouard-Manet,

- Genevilliers - curated by Barbara Sirieix
- 2013 The Vanishing Points, Muzeum Ziemi Otwockiej, Otwock, Poland – curated by Kasia Redzisz & Mirosław Bałka
 À triple tour, La Conciergerie, Paris, France – curated by Caroline Bourgeois
 Il Palazzo Enciclopedico (The Encyclopedic Palace), la Biennale di Venezia / Arsenale, Venice, Italy – curated by Massimiliano Gioni
 Back to Earth. From Picasso to Ai Weiwei – The rediscovery of ceramics in art, Herbert Gerisch-Stiftung, Neumünster, Germany
 Leisure, Discipline and Punishment, Contour Biennial, Mechelen, Belgium – curated by Jacob Fabricius
 Grundfrage, CRAC Alsace, Altkirch, France – curated by Christian Kobald & Severin Dünser
 Fictions à L'oeuvre : l'art contemporain livré à l'expérience du récit, FRAC Aquitaine, Bordeaux, France
 Magic Hour, The Ridder – A House for Contemporary Art, Maastricht, The Netherlands
 You Only Fall Twice, Centre for Contemporary Art (CCA), Derry – Londonderry, Northern Ireland – curated by Beirut & FormContent
- 2012 The Castle in the Air. Séance of Imagination, Centre of Culture ZAMEK, Poznan, Poland – curated by Adam Budak
 Kunstpreis der Böttcherstraße, Bremen, Germany
 Panegyric, Forde, Geneva, Switzerland
 The Big Inexplicable Paravent Illusion, Isabella Bortolozzi Galerie, Berlin, Germany
 LUX/ICA Biennial of Moving Images, ICA, London , UK
 Transmediale.12, Berlin, Germany
 At the Speed of Stone, Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, USA – curated by Anthony Huberman
- 2011 Yes, we don't, IAC, Villeurbanne, France
 Melanchotopia, Witte de With, Rotterdam, The Netherlands – curated by Nicolaus Schafhausen & Anne-Claire Schmitz
 The Plot, The Power Plant, Toronto, Canada – curated by Melanie O'Brian
 Athens Biennial, Athens, Greece
- 2010 Session_13, FormContent, London, UK – curated by Joshua Simon
 Hareng Saur: Ensor and Contemporary Art, SMAK, Ghent, Belgium
 Das Loch der kranke Prophet, Rod Bianco Gallery, Oslo, Norway – with Steinar Haga Kristensen
- 2009 The Thing' / 'All That Is Solid Melts Into Air, MuHKA at Mechelen, Belgium – curated by Dieter Roelstraete
 Double Happiness / The State Of Things, Brussels/Beijing,' Paleis voor Schone Kunsten / Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, Belgium – curated by Luc Tuymans & Philippe Pirotte
 Un-Scene, WIELS Contemporary Art Centre, Brussels, Belgium
 5x5Castelló09, Espai d'art contemporani de Castello, Spain
- 2008 Manifesta 7, Trentino – Alto Adige, Italy
 Sens dessus dessous, CRAC Languedoc-Roussillon, Sète, France
 When Things Cast No Shadow, 5th Berlin Biennale, Berlin, Germany
- 2007 Lonely At The Top #4, M HKA, Antwerp, Belgium – curated by Dieter Roelstraete
 The Go Between, De Appel, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
 La Ricarda, Internationales Kunstzentrum Ostbelgien, Eupen - curated by Michel François
- 2005 Visionair België / La Belgique visionnaire. C'est arrivé près de chez nous, Paleis voor Schone Kunsten / Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, Belgium – curated by Harald Szeemann
- 2004 Amicalement votre, Musée des Beaux-Arts de Tourcoing, France
- 2001 Marking the territory, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland – curated by Marina Abramovic
- 2000 BüroFriedrich, Berlin, Germany
 Künstlerhaus, Dortmund, Germany
 House of Haunted Horrors, Huis Aan De Werf, Utrecht, The Netherlands – curated by Moritz

Küng

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SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2014 Tess Edmonson, 'Otwock, Poland: Site and Narrative,' Afterall online, May
- 2013 Maaike Lauwaert, 'Jos de Gruyter & Harald Thys. M_HKA, Antwerp,' Modern Painters, June
Kasia Redzisz, 'Jos de Gruyter & Harald Thys. M_HKA, Antwerp,' Frieze, May
Chris Fitzpatrick, 'Looking for the World in Both Directions,' Spike, 35,
Jon Bywater, 'Harald Thys and Jos de Gruyter. Museum van Hedendaagse Kunst
Antwerpen (M HKA),' Artforum, April.
- 2012 John Beeson, 'Jos de Gruyter and Harald Thys at Isabella Bortolozzi, Berlin,' Artforum, April
2012.
Ana Teixeira Pinto, 'Jos de Gruyter & Harald Thys's "Im Reich der
Sonnenfinsternis,' Art Agenda, January
Moritz Küng, 'De Gruyter & Thys: Oggetti come Amici,' Abitare, 521, April
- 2011 Kirsty Bell, 'Jos de Gruyter & Harald Thys. Neue Aachener Kunstverein,' Frieze, September
Joshua Simon, 'Neo-Materialism, Part Three: The Language of Commodities,' eflux,
28, October
Jennifer Krasinski, 'All is Disquiet. Portrait Jos de Gruyter and Harald Thys,' Spike, 28, Sum-
mer
- 2010 Quinn Latimer, 'Jos de Gruyter & Harald Thys. Kunsthalle Basel,' Art in America, April
Elena Filipovic, 'Harald Thys & Jos de Gruyter,' Creamier. Contemporary Art in Culture,
Phaidon, London,
Kito Nedo, 'Wäschebeutel, Bomberjacken und Käseplatten' (Kunsthalle Basel), Art-magazin.
de, January
Kito Nedo, 'Wäschebeutel, Bomberjacken und Käseplatten' (Kunsthalle Basel), Art-magazin.
de, January
- 2009 Judith Wilkinson, 'Systems Failure: The Embarrassing Antics of de Gruyter & Thys',
Afterall, 22, Autumn/Winter
Joshua Simon, 'The Silence of the Lamps — The Autism of the Recent Works of
Jos de Gruyter and Harald Thys,' Afterall, 22, Autumn/Winter
- 2008 Dieter Roelstraete, 'The Teaches of the Speechless,' Mousse, 3, 16, December
Teresa Steel, 'Chained Melody: Harald Thys and Jos de Gruyter in Vancouver,' Filip Review, 3,
11, Winter
Gerrit Gohlke, 'Flämische Heilkunst' (5. Berlin Biennale & Isabella Bortolozzi), Artnet.de, May.
Adrian Searle, 'Toil and Rubble' (5. Berlin Biennale), The Guardian, April
- 2007 Sean James Rose, 'Deux Belges sur un Plateau. Carte blanche à François Curlet, qui invite
Thys et Gruyter,' Libération, November
- 2005 Dieter Roelstraete, 'The sacrificial lamb: Dieter Roelstraete Ponders the Work of Jos De
Gruyter & Harald Thys,' A Prior, November

CATALOGUES

- 2013 OPTIMUNDUS: M HKA 08 02 13 - 19 05 13, M HKA, Antwerp / Sternberg Press,

PRESENTATIONS

- 2014 'Car Lecture' (Erik Thys & Harald Thys), Objectif Exhibitions, Antwerp, Belgium
Selection of YouTube clips (with Erik Thys), Extracity Kunsthal, Antwerp, Belgium
- 2013 'Car Lecture' (Erik Thys & Harald Thys), The Artist's Institute, New York, USA
- 2012 'Car Lecture' (Erik Thys & Harald Thys), Belluard Festival, Fribourg, Switzerland
'Parallel Worlds,' Galerie Micheline Szwajcer, Antwerp, Belgium

- 2011 De Ateliers, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
'Parallel Worlds,' Beyond Entropy, Architecture Biennial, Venice, Italy
- 2010 Bergen Kunsthall, Bergen, Norway
'Parallel Worlds,' Jan van Eyck Academie, Maastricht, The Netherlands
- 2009 'Blinding the Ears,' Artissima, Turin, Italy
Culturgest, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2008 5th Berlin Biennale, Berlin, Germany
- 2007 Piet Zwart Instituut, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
'Car Lecture' (Erik Thys & Harald Thys), FRAC Ile-de-France Le Plateau, Paris, France
University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada
- 2005 Ecole des Beaux Arts de Strasbourg, France
- 2004 Ecole des Beaux Arts de Tourcoing, France
- 2003 'Curating the Library,' deSingel, Antwerp, Belgium

SCREENINGS

- 2014 CAC Cinema, Vilnius, Lithuania
'Die aap van Bloemfontein,' Extra City Kunsthal, Antwerp, Belgium
'Die aap van Bloemfontein,' WIELS Contemporary Art Centre, Brussels, Belgium
'Conversation Piece,' 1646, The Hague, The Netherlands – curated by Maaïke Gouwenberg
- 2013 'Das Loch,' Garage Center for Contemporary Culture, Moscow, Russia
'The Frigate,' WIELS Contemporary Art Centre, Brussels, Belgium – curated by Elena Filipovic
- 2012 'Der Schlamm Von Branst' & 'Das Loch,' Cricoteka, Kraków, Poland
'The Frigate,' Tramway, Glasgow, UK
- 2011 'Perennial #1,' WIELS Contemporary Art Centre, Brussels, Belgium
'Parallel Worlds,' Arsenal, Berlin, Germany
- 2010 'Parallel Worlds,' Berlin International Film Festival, Berlin, Germany
Arnolfini, Bristol, UK – curated by Richard Birkett
'If I Cant Dance....,' ICA, London, UK
'Project 35,' Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, The Netherlands – curated by ICI
- 2009 The Steins, New York, NY – curated by Anthony Huberman
'The Filmic Conventions,' FormContent, London, UK
Pro Choice, Vienna, Austria – curated by Lucie Stahl
Centre de Création Contemporaine, Tours, France – curated by Yann Ricordel
- 2008 Cinema on Baker Street, London, UK – curated by Isabella Bortolozzi & Dieter Roelstraete
Théâtre Mercelis, Brussels, Belgium – curated by dépendance
- 2000 'Parallelogram,' Kunstenfestivaldesarts, Brussels, Belgium
'De Deserteur,' GC Ten Weyngaert, Brussels, Belgium

CONCERTS

- 2015 'Organ concert by Erik Thys, Saint Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco, CA
- 2014 'Organ concert & record release, music composed by Erik Thys, performed by Benjamin Saurer,' Votivkirche, Vienna, Austria
- 2012 'Organ concert, music composed by Erik Thys, performed by Benjamin Saurer,' Sankt Antonius Kirche, Basel, Switzerland
'Organ concert & record release, music composed by Erik Thys, performed by Benjamin Saurer,' Kaiser Friedrich Gedächtniskirche, Berlin, Germany
'Live concert & record release 'The Frigate,' composed & performed by Erik Thys,' Galerie Micheline Sz wajcer, Antwerp, Belgium



Jos de Gruyter & Harald Thys
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installation view



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Images:
Courtesy of the artists and Gavin Brown's Enterprise
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