

Bliss Point

Melle Nieling

Expanding from the artist's ongoing exploration of infrastructure, authenticity, and value, *Bliss Point* brings together a new body of work and a large-scale site-specific installation by Melle Nieling. The works consider opacity as a material and tactic of artistic production, with a particular focus on post-truth politics and mechanisms of authority.

In food engineering, the term "Bliss Point" refers to the optimised threshold of sweetness: so sweet, but not sweet enough to cloy. The manufacturing of sweetness is itself a form of control: a technology that mediates our sensorium, rendering what is true impossible to parse. Expanding this apparatus to information politics, this exhibition enquires into opacity as an infrastructure of governance, through which authorities are legitimised and maintained.

Opacity in this show – architectural, optical, material – is deployed both as an act of concealment and a deliberate strategy of provocation. Drawing on science fiction, military sabotage manuals, and illicit spaces – from forgotten biopolitical archives to telecommunication interception facilities like Room 641A – Nieling transforms the exhibition site into a dreamlike environment that is at once banal and eerie. Audiences are invited to move towards, but never through, a restricted archive and an enclosed corridor, encountering an endless churn of fictional conspiracies, commercial slops, and aspirational mottos.

While in *The X-Files*, "The Truth is Out There" implied that truth was a hidden object – a suppressed file or a biological specimen that could be found if one looked hard enough – we live in a time where our relationship to truth is manufactured, not just through obfuscation, but through overexposure to multiple, competing truths.

Against a slow, collective epistemic exhaustion in which the collapse of the real is radically accepted, *Bliss Point* positions us between aspiration and paranoia, naivety and irreverence. It asks: what happens when fidelity and realism are completely destabilised by noise and dispersion? Is there still room for revelation in how we know?

This exhibition is generously supported by the Vane-Fairweather Foundation Annual Award.

Plicnik Space Initiative

List of Works

1. *Bliss Point*, 2026
cardboard boxes, hallway, doors
dimensions variable
2. *Real Event*, 2026
computer-assisted video, sound
infinite duration
3. *Another Real Event (Room)*, 2026
audio, light
infinite duration
4. *The Truth is Out There*, 2026
encapsulated poster, dirt
61 x 43cm
5. *Honestymaxxed*, 2026
e-ink screen, 3D-printed nylon frame,
acrylic and oil paint, digital posters
14x20x5cm

Bio

Melle Nieling (b. 1992, Netherlands) is a visual artist who creates video installations, websites, advertisements, and sculptures by appropriating the communication strategies, visual languages, and materials of corporate architecture, internet spam, and fringe ideologies. By utilising recurring corporate entities, alter egos, and low resolution images, they mimic the mechanisms of online misinformation and manipulation. Translating these concepts into physical environments, their practice frequently incorporates architectural interventions, employing walls and non-functional doors to subvert the limitations of space. Through these combined methodologies, Nieling explores the tensions between reality and virtuality, examining how such constructed frameworks manipulate human behavior, dictate social values, and distort the consensus of reality. By revealing these shifting states, the work aims to dismantle the exclusive systems that dictate

perception and induce a dreamlike state where the fluidity of reality becomes apparent.

Melle Nieling has exhibited internationally in Europe and the United States at venues including Gossamer Fog, inter.pbic, Shipton & semester9, a&o Kunsthalle, Minor Attractions, TETEM, Harlesden High Street, GROVE, and SARA'S. They are the recipient of the VFF Annual Award 2026, the Mondriaan Fonds stipend for emerging talent in both 2022 and 2023, and the Cultuurfonds Young Talent Award in 2019. Nieling has also been selected for a research and development residency at FACT in Liverpool in autumn 2026. Additionally, their practice has received support from the Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds, Hendrik Mullerfonds, Fundatie van Renswoude, Pictoright, a-n, stART Foundation, and the Eaton Fund. Nieling's work is held in both public and private collections.