HOSTED II
June 5 - July 3, 2005
Opening Reception: Sunday, June 5, 7-9pm

Curated by Martijn Lucas Smit, NIEUWE VIDE. Haarlem, the Netherlands

Anno Dijkstra
Yvonne Fontijne
Dan Geesin
Nils Mühlenbruch/Drifter TV

Pieter W. Postma
Martijn Sandberg
Tomo Savic-Gecan
Jan Maarten Voskuil

From June 5 - July 3, 2005, PARTICIPANT INC presents HOSTED II, an exhibition featuring eight artists based in the Netherlands. HOSTED II is the second part of an exhibition exchange between two not-for-profit art spaces, PARTICIPANT INC, New York and NIEUWE VIDE, Haarlem, the Netherlands. This group exhibition is derived from the recently published book, Van Stuk/Off Track, in which NIEUWE VIDE presents and explores itself. The book will be on view at PARTICIPANT INC, together with the work of participating artists travelling to New York with Martijn Lucas Smit, who has been the main curator of NIEUWE VIDE for many years.

HOSTED is an exchange between two similarly artist-driven spaces. American and Dutch artists are confronted by each other in a way that can best be described as a blind date. Their correspondence via email, with the as yet unknown outcome and mutual interest and generosity toward each other, is part of the project. Last November, the first part took place at NIEUWE VIDE with a group exhibition organized by PARTICIPANT INC, including Angelblood (Rita Ackermann and Lizzie Bougatsos), Charles Atlas, Michel Auder, Kathe Burkhart, Kim Gordon, Lovett/Codagnone, Rachel Lowther, Virgil Marti, and Laura Parnes.

NIEUWE VIDE started at its present location, a former gas factory in Haarlem (the Dutch city that Harlem, New York is named after). NIEUWE VIDE functions as an initiative with its roots and starting point in the visual arts. From there, it explores surrounding territories such as music, design, video, animation, IT, architecture, and fashion. NIEUWE VIDE works both in an introverted, experimental way, as well as with partners in a more externally oriented manner, for example, with international festivals like Lopend Beeld (animation) and Toon (sound and art crossover). In this wide focus, NIEUWE VIDE and PARTICIPANT INC find each other.

Anno Dijkstra (1970, NL)
Lives in Amsterdam; works at NIEUWE VIDE, Haarlem. Fascinated by the hardness and emotionlessness of information we receive through media, newspaper photos, articles, and television, Dijkstra intensifies this dry footage through his craftsmanship and virtuosity as a sculptor. He carves weapons like automatic machine guns and ammunition with great detail in synthetic construction foam. They accumulate into an extended collection of guns, and their aggressiveness contrasts with the fragile material and dedication of the artist. Dijkstra also stages performances in which he emphasizes, without judgment, the position of artists in society. Website (beginning June 05): www.annodijkstra.nl

Yvonne Fontijne (1967, NL)
Lives and works in Amsterdam. In animations and video stills, Fontijne vitalizes digital entities to explore human motion. By way of movement, they acquire a human aura, not only through their individual movements, but also by their group behavior.

Dan Geesin (1971, UK)
Lives in Amsterdam; works in Amsterdam and at NIEUWE VIDE, Haarlem. Came to Amsterdam as a participant of De Ateliers. Geesin works in several disciplines at the same time: building monumental and sculptural installations, and making films and animations. Moreover, he is active as a composer and musician. His work is always narrative-based in myths and tales. The contrast between the landscapes of The Netherlands where he lives and the hilly landscape of South England from where he originated plays a key role in his work.

Nils Mühlenbruch/Drifter TV (1966, NL)
Lives and works in Amsterdam. Mühlenbruch graduated in 1993 with a concentration in large sculptural and monumental installations. In the last three years, he switched completely to web-based art. His site, DRIFTER.TV features interactive animations usually starring boy
scouts in surreal situations. They are both victim and offender in modern society.

DRIFTER.TV is also a popular VJ show in the Dutch club circuit, featuring the Utrecht DJ, Remco van der Drift. Website: www.drifter.tv

Pieter W. Postma (1963, NL)
Lives and works in Amsterdam. Postma's work always refers to elsewhere: another dimension of time, another dimension of place. His objects are trophies, seemingly taken home by accident or intentionally stolen for their beauty, as in the case of his series of galactic rockets.

Martijn Sandberg (1967, NL)
Lives and works in Amsterdam. Sandberg uses graphical media for creating his "Image-messages." He designs his own typography, balancing between readable and not readable. His work is both word and sign: his message is an image. This is most literally represented in his "No-image, no-message" works. Recent commissions for public spaces show this paradoxical political engagement. In his "Power to the people," he transforms a power plant into an energy-absorbing image-message. The fluorescent printed text, "Power to the people," is activated by the lights from the surrounding environment, such as cars passing by. For a permanent installation in the Sociale Verzekeringsbank Zaandam, he made his own coins. "We're only in it for the money," is his money-message, also inlaid in the floor. Website: www.msandberg.nl

Tomo Savic-Gecan (1967, CR)
Lives and works in Amsterdam. Savic-Gecan literally denies visitors entrance to the exhibition space. Without compromise, he installs fences, builds walls, or makes barricades. He guides his public to places where there is nothing to see, even sending them to places that do not exist. If one thinks never to see anything of Savic-Gecan again, he unexpectedly draws attention to some forgotten spot—a piece of floor that he intensively polished. Often, even a clue is missing. His work only exists by the presence of the public. In "Common Ground" (Begane Grond, Utrecht), he installed a detector to register visitors' movements and connected this through the Internet with an escalator in Zagreb. Visitors who entered didn't see anything, but were, unknowingly, responsible for the stopping and starting of an escalator over a thousand miles away. In a recent show in Brussels, he removed a large window of the gallery and transformed it into 150 drinking glasses. Audience members were offered, in a windy space, a drink from these glasses.

Jan Maarten Voskuil (1964, NL)
Lives and works in Haarlem. Voskuil's most recent works seem to refer only to themselves. Titles such as "7.2 cm" are derived from the literal depth of the painting. Stripes and color fields are likewise defined. This concrete art has a very physical feel—the body-like, curved, or sphered surfaces evoke sensuous counterparts to their formal starting points. As Dutch curator and artist Jasper van der Graaf has noted: "If there is a renaissance of Minimalism, Voskuil skipped it and starts right at the Baroque."

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