

Opening Sunday 10 March 2019

Exhibition until 21 April 2019

Open: Thu – Sun, 14:00 – 18:00 and by appointment

Lise Duclaux

tempérer l'espace espacer le temps

In her exhibition *tempérer l'espace, espacer le temps* for LLS Paleis in Antwerp, Duclaux creates parallel worlds through fiction and narration, abstraction and realism.

The first room is dedicated to the ongoing project *plantes de bruxelles*. This *in situ* installation project with living plants has been part of her *oeuvre évolutive* since 2003 and attempts to give form to a non-representable conceptual practice.

The point of departure for *plantes de bruxelles* are the artist's wanderings ("everywhere I go") and travels. Duclaux is cutting and collecting branches, leafs, and different branch formations. They come from a botanical garden in Portugal, from friends in France, from the Serres Royales in Brussels, etc. She collects them as souvenirs without knowing the exact heritage of the plants. This intuitively collected (domestic or non-native) vegetation will then grow in her studio at home in Brussels, hence the title of the work.

Lise Duclaux's role is that of a *flâneur*, who observes, finds, documents and then shapes her observations, turning them into a reflection of her seeing. As fragile living elements, plants affirm life and have a real inner power. Duclaux transfers organic growing structures and models to the realm of art, and each cutting for the *plantes de bruxelles* project represents the energy or expression of change. Since 2008, Duclaux has been giving her plants up for adoption in a performance that often takes place on the last day of the exhibition. Everyone can only adopt one plant, and the adoption process takes place at a table, through a face-to-face conversation between the artist and the spectator.

Duclaux's central artistic tool is the line, both as a positive and a negative form. She has been developing multifaceted drawing series, collages and paper works. The lines are related to the unseen inner world of plants, which in turn invites reflections on figure and ground, presence and absence. Duclaux is not only concerned with the inner world of plants and roots. As drawings, they turn "outward". Being outside or inside is a matter of definition. The wall drawings show an in-between world. Involving all of the spectators' senses, this part of the exhibition disperses the "narrow" gaze, by shifting from the horizontal to the vertical, and vice versa.

The last room of the exhibition space has been renamed the *Blue Room-Sky Room* by the artist. Inspired by the blue tiles, the *Sky Room* places the audience "in the air". Now, we look at the work from space, from a bird's-eye view (whereas in the previous space we were in a cave, with the roots). Here, Duclaux defies objective perception in a space-filling intervention. Some recurring motifs (such as the moon, galaxies, roots, flowers, writings, diagrams, etc.) can be considered as metaphors for the artist's intrinsic interest in space and light.

Duclaux's works offer the spectator sideways access to a multi-layered and often complex contemporary allegory of life.

Necmi Sönmez, independent curator

Exhibited works

Main space

plantes de bruxelles

plants on various tables, prints, table with registration equipment, chairs

plants know what's going on underground, 2019

special edition for LLS Paleis

silkscreen on paper

70 x 50 cm

ed. 30 ex. signed and numbered

price: € 250 / for Sympathisanten LLS € 200

carotte sauvage, 2019

wall drawing (left) with paint marker

petit arbre, 2019

wall drawing (right) with paint marker

chardon, 2019

wall drawing (back) with paint marker

graminées, 2019

wall drawing (ceiling) with paint marker

Toilets

naissance de la lune, supposition I et II, 2019

ink on paper

33,5 x 18,5 each

Blue Room-Sky Room

zulte / oreille de cochon (aster maritime), 2019

colour photograph

43 x 29,5 cm

Ed. 1/5

graines et réceptacles, 2019

wall drawing (ceiling) with paint marker

être au monde, 2019

ink and colour pencil on paper

36 x 49,5 cm

journées inaccoutumées / unusual days:

31.03.2019, 3 pm

promenade de pas de porte

à propos de quelques êtres spontanés du coin / walk in the neighbourhood

release and presentation of DAGBLAD Nr. 6 by Lise Duclaux

21.04.2019, 2-7 pm

adopter une oeuvre originale / finissage and possibility to adopt an original work of art.

With thanks to Ruben Boeren, Emanuele Coccia, Kris Cuyllits, François Bourgaux, Nolwenn Dequiedt, Donna Haraway, Ursula le Guin, Lieve Lambrecht, LMNO-galerie, Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing, Léa Ricorday, Sis Matthé, Chris Straetling and Jacques Tassin.

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