

Karl Philips, *Hand Pump Car*, 2014

Sculpture, metal, car tyre, 150 x 200 x 80cm

°1984, Hasselt, lives and works in Belgium

The public space is both the source of inspiration and the battleground of Karl Philips' actions. The interventions, performances and installations of Karl Philips explore "the meaning of the parasite in times of global capitalism and international networks, in which we have all become a thorn in the side of a world order and dissonant strategies are increasingly under pressure" (Stefan Vervoordt, 2014). His work interweaves itself inextricably with daily reality and suggests an effective feasibility which can be used as a real alternative. In *Concierge* (2010) he built a clandestine dwelling space at the back of a Clear Channel billboard. It couldn't be noticed from the street side and was occupied by someone during four months without problem. *Topsleepers* (2014) shows the small sleeping cabins of truck drivers, mounted on top of trucks, and the food supply, stowed in cases between the wheels. In his work Karl Philips seeks alternatives to provide for basic needs by going around the excrescences of the overruling capitalistic standard of living, or by taking advantage of it.

For the exhibition *AIR Traces: Austruweel* he will set up the sculpture *Hand Pump Car* (2014) at the end of the *Droogdokkenweg*, near the dry docks at the Dry Dock Island. He designed a handcar, which is mounted onto a metal guardrail and powered by its passengers. *Hand Pump Car* provides an alternative to free mobility by using the guardrails alongside the existing road network. This work also ties in with the character of this area between port and city, industry and society, where constant traces can be found of people who wish to support themselves differently (temporary housing, squatters etc.)

Karl Philips has taken part in the following solo exhibitions (a selection): *Foreign Legion*, CIAP, Hasselt, 2014; *7 Square Meters*, Art Brussels, Brussels, 2014; *Truck Stop: Karl Philips & Dennis Tyfus*, Het Paviljoen, Ghent, 2013. His work has been shown in the following group exhibitions: (a selection): *Congress of Vagabonds*, Stuttgart, 2014; *Mind the System, Find the Gap*, Z33, Hasselt, 2012; *These and Other Works*, Extra City Kunsthall Antwerpen, 2012; *Act Out*, Onomatopee, Eindhoven, 2011; *Kunst en Zwalm*, Zwalm, 2011; *Now Belgium Now*, LLS 387, Antwerp, 2011. He is currently working on projects for W 139 (Amsterdam), Beursschouwburg (Brussels) and NAK (Aachen).

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www.karlphilips.org

Location: Droogdokkenweg

Map: 1