

Paul Becker, *Her Writing of 'The Chosen Ground'*, 2014

Text and performance

°1967, lives and works in Newcastle upon Tyne

Paul Becker's work rests on the virtually unending possibilities of painting. He himself paints occasionally, but he is more interested in how the idea of painting can be taken up in other media such as literature, performance and video. Narrative also plays an important role in his work. This is something he explores by experimenting with the subtle fusion of fiction and reality. The result is a certain confusion whereby one never knows for certain what really did take place and what did not. Influences from film, history and art history inspire him to weave a fine web of events.

For *AIR Traces: Austruweel* Paul Becker has written the text *Her Writing of 'The Chosen Ground'*, included in this publication. The text tells the story of a writer who creates a story about the immediate surroundings of AIR Antwerpen, more specifically the quay of the Schelde, the Red Star Line Museum and the church of St John the Baptist in Oosterweel. The story can be seen as a guided tour that exposes the tales associated with these places and activates them as sites where events have taken place and where people have lived and walked around that are no longer there today. Only the place itself and some traces remain, which the text breathes new life into.

Paul Becker's work has been shown in the following exhibitions (a selection): *Seigneur, accorde à l'esprit un crédit à la production*, Circuit, Lausanne, 2013; *Le Salon*, Brussels, 2012. Becker has also contributed to various publications, including: *Cadavere Quotidiano* (2014, co-editor, published by X-TRA, Los Angeles); *Essays in Sculpture No. 68: My Life by Anton Lesseman* (published by the Henry Moore Institute, Leeds); *The Nabokov Paper* (edited by Kate Briggs Lucrezia Rosso, published by information as material); *It's moving from I to it* (published by FormContent, London).

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Venues: the Red Star Line Museum, the quay of the river Schelde and the church of St John the Baptist in Oosterweel.

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