

Ria Pacquée, *I don't know what is going to happen*, 2014

Installation consisting of photographs, blue paint and cobblestones

°1954, Merksem, lives and works in Antwerp

Ria Pacquée's multifaceted work focuses on how humanity manifests itself in everyday reality. Pacquée draws the inspiration for her work from long walks in Belgium and abroad, walks that serve as a work process. Through continuous repetition and a sharp eye for detail, Pacquée discovers certain phenomena and patterns in human behaviour. Another source of inspiration consists of anthropologically interesting phenomena such as the Rosetta Stone and repeated journeys to India and the Middle East. Pacquée infiltrates the public space not only through observation but also through situation-oriented performances in which she projects herself in a particular character. Photography is the most practicable medium for Pacquée, but she also often works with performance, video and, in a distant past, painting.

For the exhibition *AIR Traces: Austruweel*, Pacquée has taken over the small house at the end of the Sluisstraat, right next to the Kattendijk lock. It was during one of her first walks already that she noticed this little house, in particular the impressive approach to it. The front facade is partly covered in blue. Once inside an installation has been set up with photographs and a collection of stones. The colour blue functions here as a signature of the artist and as an appropriation of the public space. The colour also refers to previous exhibitions such as *Color Walks* (LLS 387, 2010) and her sculpture *Pointing and Shouting (De Sokkel #2)*, Middelheimmuseum, 2012). The choice of the location as well as the ultimate installations are the result of long, repeated walks in these surroundings. The stones as well as the photographs are both the proof and the result of these journeys and show the subtle perspective and insight of the artist into the public spaces. For Pacquée the stones conjure references to lapidations and revolutions but also for instance the Rosetta Stone (an honorary gift dating from 196 BC given by the priests of Memphis to King Ptolemy V Epiphanes and also an important key for Jean-François Champollion in deciphering hieroglyphs) and the use of stones in Mecca during the hajj (pilgrimage) to drive away Satan.

Ria Pacquée has taken part in the following solo exhibitions (a selection): *Streetworking-Ritual Moments*, Treignac Project, Treignac, 2013; *Westerly Winds*, Argos, Brussels, 2011; *Color Walks*, LLS387, Antwerp, 2010; *Desert of Fragments*, M HKA, Antwerp, 2001. Her work has also featured in the following group exhibitions (a selection): *The Return of the Witness*, Camden Arts Centre, London, 2010; *The Jerusalem Syndrome*, Al-Ma'mal Foundation, Jerusalem, 2009; *Rebelle – Kunst en Feminisme*, Museum Moderne Kunst, Arnhem, 2009; *A Story of the Image*, Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai, 2009; *Manifesta 7*, Palazzo del Poste, Trento, 2008; *Mimétisme*, Extra City Kunsthall Antwerp, 2008.

www.riapacquee.com

Venue: the lockhouse on Sluisstraat

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