

Kuratoren
Prof. Kasper König
Dr. Brigitte Franzen

skulptur projekte münster 07

Westfälisches Landesmuseum für Kunst und Kulturgeschichte – Direktor Dr. Hermann Arnholt

in Kooperation mit
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Westfälischer Kunstverein

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skulptur projekte münster 07 **June 17, 2007 – September 30, 2007**

Groundbreaking Ceremony for Guillaume Bijl's
Sorry-Installation (Archaeological Site)

The major international exhibition *skulptur projekte münster 07* may not be opening for another four and a half months, but signs of the first artistic interventions are already becoming tantalisingly visible in public space. By the time the exhibition is in full swing, a total of thirty-seven artists from around the world will have realised thirty-four projects within the city. The exhibition itself will open on June 16, 2007 and is supported by the Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe (LWL), the City of Münster, and the German Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia.

The groundbreaking ceremony on February 5 marked the beginning of work on one of the first of these projects, Guillaume Bijl's *Sorry-Installation (Archeological Site)* – a mock archaeological excavation site located on a meadow near Lake Aa (Aasee). The Belgian artist has chosen this site because of his fascination with its combination of naturally and culturally organised space.

The parkland surrounding the lake is the most popular local recreation area in Münster, and with its mixture of natural and manmade beauty, it provides the perfect setting for Bijl's powers of illusion. The excavation site will grow to be eight metres wide, eight metres long, and five and a half metres deep. The steep walls of the pit will be covered with spray-applied concrete imitating the different layers of soil seen in a real archaeological dig, and grass will be planted up to the pit's edge. Inside the pit itself, Bijl will install a 4.3-metre, shingle-roofed spire topped by a weathercock.

This mock archaeological site designed especially for the exhibition is part of a series Guillaume Bijl calls *Sorry-Installations* – works that the artist calls “absurd poetry”. Visitors climb a small hill to reach the site and can peer into the pit from a balustrade guarding its edge. The artist thus plays with familiar situations and ostensibly functional settings, exposing them as pure show and demonstrating their absurdity. As the associate curator, Dr. Carina Plath, observes, “Guillaume Bijl plays with our expectations, whetting and disappointing our curiosity at the same time.”

The Sparkasse Münsterland Ost is a proud supporter of Guillaume Bijl's project. “The work is a real head-turner and with its humour will undoubtedly appeal to a great many people,” says chairman of the board Markus Schabel adding, “The *skulptur projekte* are a major asset to the region, with an allure that many other cities and regions can only dream of.”

The large-scale and complex construction work on the project will begin on Monday, February 12, 2007 at Sentruper Höhe on the meadow between the LWL-Museum für Naturkunde and the Freilichtmuseum Mühlenhof.

Träger

LWL

STADT MÜNSTER

Der Ministerpräsident
des Landes
Nordrhein-Westfalen

NRW.

Förderer / Hauptsponsoren

gefördert durch die
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S Sparkasse
Münsterland Ost

Guillaume Bijl

1946	Born in Antwerp, Belgium Lives and works in Antwerp and Münster
1962-69	Active as self-taught painter Hamburg and Berlin, Kunstakademie Düsseldorf
1969-70	Studies of theatre and film
1988	<i>Venice Biennale</i>
1992	<i>Documenta 9</i>
1999	<i>Venice Biennale</i>
2001	Professor of sculpture at the Münster Academy of Fine Arts
2006	<i>Busan Biennale</i>

Guillaume Bijl's works have been shown at numerous exhibitions, including

50 Jahre/Years documenta 1955-2005

September-November 2005, Kunsthalle Fridericianum, Kassel

(my private) *HEROES*

May-August 2005, MARTa Herford

L'ombre du Temps

September-November 2004, Jeu de Paume, Paris

collection summer 2004

May-August 2004, Museum van Hedendaagse Kunst, Antwerp

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skulptur projekte münster 07 - Information

The fourth *Skulptur Projekte* will be taking place during the summer of 2007. Every ten years since 1997, this major exhibition has invited artists from around the world to captivate audiences and enrich the city with their works. Over the years, Münster has become an important name in contemporary art in public outside space. Today, approximately forty sculptures bear witness to the exciting history of the *skulptur projekte*, including Claes Oldenburg's *Giant Pool Balls* (1977) by Lake Aa, which have become one of the city's most famous landmarks. The curators of the exhibition are Kasper König and Brigitte Franzen; the associated curator is Carina Plath. The *skulptur projekte münster 07* will take place from June 17-September 30, parallel to *documenta* in Kassel, thus exerting a decisive influence on the city and region for more than 100 days. In 1997, more than 500,000 visitors came to Münster to admire the work of artists from twenty-five different countries. The exhibition is supported by the Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe, the City of Münster, and the German Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia and organised by the LWL-Landesmuseum für Kunst und Kulturgeschichte in Münster.