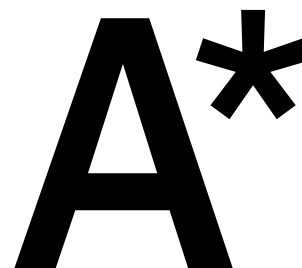


Media Release

Aarau in January, 2014



Veronika Spierenburg

Manor Art Award 2013

25 January - 21 April 2014
Aargauer Kunsthaus, Aarau (CH)

Veronika Spierenburg (b. 1981) is the recipient of the 2013 Manor Art Award, a distinction that provides the occasion for a first institutional solo exhibition at the Aargauer Kunsthaus. Based on her fascination with museum architecture, the artist has developed new works for her presentation in Aarau that are characterised by a minimalist formal vocabulary and delineate a thematic range pivoting on space, body and geometry.

The issue of the meaning of space - and how, as an artist, she can approximate it - is a central element of the work of Veronika Spierenburg. For her exhibition at the Aargauer Kunsthaus the artist has systematically examined the architectural structures and interiors of the Kunsthaus Glarus in Glarus, Switzerland, the Östergötlands Museums in Linköping, Sweden, and the Museum Boijmans van Beuningen in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Based on her findings she has created a multi-part, multi-media installation, in which she spins the string of references further and places the Aargauer Kunsthaus in manifold relation to those three museums. Thus the site-specific sound piece *Shaped Light* (2013), by making light its subject, addresses a central aspect of said artistic research by allowing visitors to experience the daylight that enters the Aargauer Kunsthaus acoustically. The mechanical sound of the work indirectly makes up the soundtrack of the video piece *as it is...* (2013), in which Veronika Spierenburg has scanned the museum spaces in Glarus, Linköping and Rotterdam with a keen sense of materiality, so as to make us read them as an abstracted network. The artistic exploration of the encounter of body and space is expressed in a particularly monumental form in the zigzag-shaped, expansive sculpture *Zig Zag* (2013), which takes up the exhibition space and visualises how architecture channels and controls sequences of movements - in this case

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the visitors' movements. The physical immediacy of the work's effect on the viewer is characteristic of Veronika Spierenburg's oeuvre, which is steeped in issues regarding the interaction of man and space. Thus the protagonists in *Split between Two Spaces* (2013), the performance to be presented at the exhibition opening, "activate" the interior courtyard through minimal motion sequences, thereby entering into a dynamic and tension-filled relationship to its geometry. Corporeally surveyed, architecture comes alive.

Formally, the artist employs a clear, minimalist repertoire, as also shown by the photographic installation *Table Chair* (2013), another work presented in Aarau. In the museums mentioned Veronika Spierenburg has taken ageing seating that was kept in storage and assembled the objects by rotating and stacking into abstract shapes. Everyday things are alienated through such minimal arrangements and reveal surprising sculptural qualities in their re-contextualisation.

In the subtle interplay of space, rhythm, movement and sound Veronika Spierenburg has created a dialogue-rich set of works for Aarau in which different artistic media interact. Characterised by simplicity and precision, her works are imbued with contemplative power.

Veronika Spierenburg

(b. in Schlieren near Zürich in 1981, lives and works in Zürich)
1999–2002 Studied design at the Schule für Gestaltung in Basel, majoring in visual communication; 2005 Bachelor in Photography at the Gerrit Rietveld Academie in Amsterdam and 2006 Master of Fine Arts at Central Saint Martins College in London.

Selected solo exhibitions to date: *Ausverkauf*, Station 21, Zürich (2009); *K like Kaktus*, Kiasma, Helsinki (2008); *Audience to Audience*, Roger Smith Lab Gallery, New York (2008); *For Two Voices*, Shed-and-a-Half Gallery, London (2008)

Selected group exhibitions to date: *Auswahl 12/11/10/09/08*, Aargauer Kunsthaus, Aarau (2012/2011/2010/2009/2008); *Werk- und Atelierstipendien der Stadt Zürich* (2012); *Catch of the Year*, Dienstgebäude, Zürich (2010); *Galerie Lucy Mackintosh*, Lausanne (2010); *The Blank Show*, Median Art Center, Beijing (2009); *About Now*, message salon downtown, Zürich (2009); *Dead Darlings*, Mediamatic Bank, Amsterdam (2009); *The Red Mansion Art Prize*, Lethaby Gallery, London (2007); *Goudslicht*, Gouda, NL (2006); *Steenbergen Stipendium*, Fotomuseum, Rotterdam (2005); *No Title*, Pact, Amsterdam (2004)

Awards: work grant, Aargauer Kuratorium (2012); work grant, Aargauer Kuratorium (2009); NAB Art Prize, Aarau (2008); The Red Mansion Art Prize, London (2006); VSB Fond, Amsterdam (2006)

*Aargauer Kunsthaus

Curators

Nicole Rampa and Katrin Weilenmann, Assistants Curator, Aargauer Kunsthaus

Catalogue

In conjunction with the exhibition a catalogue is published. Containing a specially created photographic work titled *Ecken, Hoek, Hörn* and a text piece titled *Licht, Licht, Ljus*, it considers itself an extension of the exhibition, an additional gallery.

Veronika Spierenburg. Ecke, Hoek, Hörn. Edited by Nicole Rampa, Katrin Weilenmann, Aargauer Kunsthaus. With texts by Mik Guber, Martin Jaeggi and a conversation with Veronika Spierenburg by Nicole Rampa and Katrin Weilenmann. edition fink, Verlag für zeitgenössische Kunst, Zurich, 2014, German and English. ISBN 978-3-03746-180-8. CHF 32.-/CHF 28.- for members of the Aargauischer Kunstverein

Edition

A limited artist's edition by Veronika Spierenburg will be issued in conjunction with the exhibition.

Preview for the Media

Thursday, 23 January 2014, 10 pm

Welcome address by Madeleine Schuppli, Director, Aargauer Kunsthaus, introduction by Nicole Rampa and Katrin Weilenmann, Assistants Curator. Tour of the exhibition, followed by a reception in the foyer.

Opening

Friday, 24 January 2014, 6 pm

6.15 pm Speakers: Madeleine Schuppli, Director Aargauer Kunsthaus, a representative of the Manor Art Award, and Nicole Rampa, Assistant Curator, Aargauer Kunsthaus. Followed by a reception in the Kunsthaus foyer.

At 19 pm Performance by Veronika Spierenburg in the interior courtyard

Viewing and Discussion in the Exhibition

Wednesday, 26 March 2014, 6.30 pm

With Veronika Spierenburg, Katharina Stehrenberger, architect in Zürich, Nicole Rampa and Katrin Weilenmann, Assistants Curator, Aargauer Kunsthaus. Followed by a reception in the foyer.

Guided Tours

Thursday, 6.30 pm

13 February with Nicole Rampa, **27 February** with Astrid Näff, **10 April** with Anna Francke

Sunday, 11 am

9 February with Anna Francke, **23 February** with Anna Francke, **9 March** with Astrid Näff, **30 March** with Anna Francke

Easter Monday 12.30 pm

21 April with Astrid Näff

Art Education

Children's Opening: Secret!

Friday, 24 January, 6-8 pm

Meet at the studio downstairs at 6 pm

For children ages 5 and older

Art Hunt

Thursday, 23 February, 12 - 1 pm

Lunchtime tour, followed by sandwiches at the studio

Rendez-vous

Saturday, 22 February, 3 - 4.30 pm

with Isabel Zürcher, art historian and member of the 2013 Manor Art Award jury

Opening Hours Aargauer Kunsthaus

Tuesday -Sunday 10 am -5 pm, Thursday 10 am - 8 pm

Holiday Opening Hours

Holy Thursday, 17 April, Good Friday, 18 April, Easter Sunday, 20 April and Easter Monday, 21 April, open daily from 10 am to 5 pm

Images for the media

Images linked to the Veronika Spierenburg exhibition are available for downloading on our website www.aargauerkunsthaus.ch Media. Please consider the copyright.

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