

Floating hands and fake mountains / Eva Spierenburg (The Netherlands)

Opening: Saturday January 5 at 5 PM / Duration: January 5 till January 12, 2018

Open: Tuesday to Saturday 13.00 – 17.30

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Eva Spierenburg (1987 NL) is a visual artist based in Utrecht (NL). She works with a wide range of media, including installation, video and painting. Spierenburg earned her Bachelor degree at the HKU in Utrecht (NL) in 2009, and was an artist-in-residence at the Rijksakademie voor Beeldende Kunsten in Amsterdam. Her works have been exhibited both in the Netherlands and abroad, among others in Iceland, Morocco and Berlin.

The human body constitutes a recurring motive to Spierenburg's installations, often approached from an intimate point of view. The body finds its form in a collection of attempts to materialize physical experiences and states of mind. Works are lingering between life and death, presence and absence, solid and soft, earthly and spiritual. Opposites find each other in a state of transition or ambiguity.

Over the past several years, the emphasis in Eva Spierenburg's work has lain on the impermanence of the body; on the transition to a form of absence in sickness and death. Recently her attention shifted to the relation between the body and its environment. To the body as a vehicle of the individual to get in touch with other people, with objects, and with the space we inhabit. The human being is present in what (s)he leaves behind when the body moves from a location; present through touch or interaction with his environment.

When the artist first visited Xiamen in 2017, she was intrigued by the relation between the ordinary and the sacred. By the remains of tradition and spirituality in daily life, within a rapidly developing economy. Walking around the city, she encountered many altars: both in and around temples, as in unexpected places. Both actual altars, and arrangements which could be considered as such in the public space.

Spierenburg is interested in how these arrangements suggest an unknown action or ritual. The arranged objects carry the traces of human interaction. With the possibility that the items could be used and thereby re-activated at any time. Or they might just as well stay still and only bear the leftovers of human presence.

Floating hands and fake mountains shows an installation that combines found material with objects and drawings made by the artist. The work lingers in between an altar and an archeological site. It's an area where objects can be investigated on their value and possible usage.

The seemingly worthless gains value and purpose through its careful arrangement. While the objects show the traces of being used by an absent body, the present body is reduced to hands, skin and feet.

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