

***Douwe Jan Bakker, Krijn Giezen, Hans de Vries, September 8th, 2016 – January 29th, 2017***

Wilfried Lentz Rotterdam is proud to host a group show of three important Dutch conceptual artists from the '70s: Douwe Jan Bakker (1943-1997), Krijn Giezen (1939-2011) and Hans de Vries (1947). The exhibition will take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the gallery and is part of a larger programme involving thematic presentations of these artists' work throughout the fall and winter of 2016. The series will also include short-span solo shows in the main gallery space by contemporary artists with similar mentalities and attitudes.

Bakker, Giezen and de Vries share an artistic approach characterised by a conscious and close relationship to their environment. They were all deeply inspired by nature and daily reality. It was for these reasons that they were brought together (along with a fourth artist, Sjoerd Buisman) as the Dutch entry to the Venice Biennial in 1978 in the presentation 'Nature <-> Art'.

In the '60s and '70s, the political attitude in the Western world was becoming more critical towards the ideology that viewed nature as an inexhaustible source of energy, food, spectacle and beauty. The declarations of the Club of Rome, the rise of the Provos and the hippie movement were a response to new and highly complex relationships between man and nature, which were all too often treated light-heartedly by politicians and industry. To cite the catalogue of the 1978 Dutch entry: '.....an attitude to life of this kind makes it clear that the threat to nature runs parallel to a neglect of culture'.

The visual arts responded in an archaic way by recording and measuring the day-to-day changes in nature, witnessing and registering the world's inherent beauty through a combination of notations and photography, and using prosaic methods for making instruments, building furniture and harvesting food. This was seen as a counteraction to industrialised society. Their art was anti-commodity, aiming at inclusion and commitment and showing a back-to-basics, hands-on mentality.

The first opening of this 4th floor show will take place in conjunction with Vlatka Horvat's solo show in the main space of the gallery on **Thursday, September 8th between 4 – 8 pm**. The show runs until January 29th, 2016 with new arrangements during the course of the exhibition. Our opening coincides with the openings at A Tale of a Tub and Witte de With, and a shuttle bus will run between the Justus van Effen Badhuis and Witte de With.

The gallery is open Friday – Sunday from 1 – 6 p.m. and by appointment. For further information and visuals, please contact the gallery: [office@wilfriedlentz.com](mailto:office@wilfriedlentz.com) or +31 (0)10 4126459

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