

Feiko Beckers

“Where Everything Is Safe And Sound”

5 September – 24 October 2015

The exhibition “Where Everything Is Safe And Sound” brings together two short films that Feiko Beckers realized in the last two years. “A Conversation To Lose Your Own Opinion” (2015) and “Safe And Sound” (2013) that Beckers made during his residency at Le Pavillon in Palais de Tokyo, Paris.

In “Safe and Sound”, Beckers makes a plea for staying home. He argues that problems arise when you leave the safe surroundings of your own home and for example go on a holiday. He comes to the conclusion that it's therefor better to just stay home or to create a place where you can stay home. The rudimentary home that Beckers subsequently creates in the video with the help of three friends, can be seen as part of this exhibition. The film however shows that it's these three friends that have to do most of the work building this home. A home that also just consists of two concrete walls and whose aesthetics are derived from Arcosanti, a utopian society that was created in 1970 in the Arizona desert and that nowadays seems to have completely failed. That failure of Beckers' solution becomes even more apparent with the three photographs that accompany the film. In these photographs, Beckers awkwardly attempts to position himself around his newfound home.

The short film “An Argument Is A Risk To Loose Your Own Opinion”, that consists of three dialogues between Beckers and a friend, also contains imagery inspired by an utopian project. The costumes that Beckers and his friend wear, are based on costumes designed by Kazimir Malevich for the 1912 opera Victory over the Sun. This opera was conceived to bridge gaps between literature, music and visual art to, according to Malevich, “transcend the visible world for a higher consciousness and a better world in the future.” A highly utopian project, that preceded the October Revolution by only a few years.

In “An Argument Is A Risk To Loose Your Own Opinion” however the same kind of costumes are employed to realize something far less ambitious. Instead of “a better world” and “a higher consciousness“ they are used to find answers to trivial problems about a new washing machine, a favorite Italian restaurant and an extra chair. In every dialogue Beckers tries to convince his friend of a certain way to deal with that problem. Ways however that in the end prove not to be beneficial to either of them.

The title of the exhibition “Where Everything Is Safe And Sound” is taken from the monologue that Beckers delivers in “Safe and Sound”. But it also serves to describe the exhibition space itself. Because of all the problem-solving that's present in the works displayed in “Where Everything Is Safe And Sound”, the exhibition space itself also becomes a place where there is seemingly nothing left to worry about.

About Feiko :

Feiko Beckers (1983) was an artist in residence at the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam (2010-2011) and at Le Pavillon Neuflyze OVB at Palais de Tokyo, Paris(2012-2013). He presented a live performance at Liste Art Fair Basel (2013) and performed within a solo context at the Beursschouwburg in Brussels (2012-2014). This summer Beckers made a new performance for Land Art Live, which premiere took place at the by Piet Slegers designed land art project “Aardzee in Flevoland. He currently has a solo exhibition at Le Cap in Saint-Fons, Lyon which is part of the official site program of the Biennale de Lyon and which is on view until 3 October.