

PRESS RELEASE

6 September – 18 October 2008

BARBARA VISSER **Former Futures 2**

Annet Gelink Gallery proudly presents the solo exhibition *Former Futures 2* of Barbara Visser (Haarlem, 1966). Over the years Visser has conquered a firm place in the world of art, which was recently again confirmed by her being awarded the prestigious oeuvre price, the Dr. A.H. Heineken Prize for Art 2008. Her work is currently on display in the Centre d'Art Contemporain in Meymac (France) and in Gaasbeek Castle in Brussels (Belgium). Furthermore, Visser is participating in Manifesta 7 with the installation *Former Futures*. This year Manifesta takes place in the Trentino region in Italy.

For Manifesta Visser has made a staged installation based on facts about the power struggle concerning a commission for the

Palazzo delle Poste in Trento. In *Former Futures* Visser throws light on the correspondence between Angiolo Mazzoni, the Palazzo's architect – at the same time Mussolini's head architect – and Fortunato Depero, a futuristic artist dying to fetch in the assignment to design three enormous stained glass windows for the future building.

For *Former Futures 2* Visser continues with this installation by adding a second layer. *Former Futures 2* takes the installation from a concrete, physical place to a virtual, fictive place. Elements of the room in the Palazzo delle Poste return to gallery as two- or three-dimensional images in the form of photographs, slides and scale-models. The vividly coloured foils on the windows refer to the stained glass windows of Depero.

With *Former Futures 2* Visser brings up for discussion the fragile relation between artist and principal – between ambition and money – eventually revolving around power. She draws therewith a parallel with our age, in which the artist still seems to be subjected to external powers. Also the tragedy of the visionary artist comes to the fore since according to Visser futurism is of all times. With *Former Futures 2* Visser renders a private perspective of the phenomenon historiography. Which historic facts are considered important and passed on, and which facts stay underexposed? The human perception plays a key role in Visser's oeuvre. For example in the series of photographs *A Day in Holland/Holland in a Day* (2001) and *Le monde appartient à ceux qui se lèvent tôt* (2002) Visser is also playing with our perception and how that is being influenced by journalistic, historical and cultural influences.

The Bakery: Dick Verdult alias Dick El Demasiado

Amplify me to the moon

Dick Verdult (Eindhoven, 1954) grows up in Guatemala, Argentina, South Africa and France. He graduates in Paris in the seventies at Université Paris VIII Vincennes. In the eighties he makes his name as a film and television maker, both independently and for the VPRO. In the nineties he founded the Instituut voor Betaalbare Waanzin (Institute for Affordable Madness, IBW). As a result of a trip to Honduras with the IBW he comes up with the 'Festival of the Experimental Cumbias' (Festicumex, a festival for this non-existent kind of music). From 2001 Verdult has been working alone on this project and writes the fictive anthropological research *La Pero Incesante Degradacion de las Cumbias Lunaticas* (The Slow but Unavoidable Decline of the Cumbias Lunaticas) in which he set forth the history of the Moonstruck Cumbias and allows the various (so far fictive) artists such as El Padre Teresa, La Hygiena Gonzales and Dick El Demasiado to speak. In 2002 Verdult decides to make his appearance as Dick El Demasiado (Dick the Redundant/Dick Too Much) and in 2003 he releases his first CD. Since then Dick El Demasiado is a well-known and popular artist in amongst others Argentina, Colombia and Mexico and is spoken highly of for his music and texts. In 2006 Verdult organises a Festicumex festival in the Van Abbemuseum. In *The Bakery* we are displaying the 'Cumbia Lunatica' project in its full magnitude with a film of Verdult, with his drawings, videos, posters, publications and sculptures. This reveals not only the enormous scope of the Cumbia Lunaticas project but also Verdult's versatility as an artist. During the opening on 6 September there will be a short performance by Dick El Demasiado at 6 pm. Also, he will be performing during the Night of the Unexpected in Paradiso Amsterdam on 5 September, starts at 8.30 pm.

Barbara Visser On 2 October the Dr. A.H. Heinenken price will be presented at the Beurs van Berlage, and on 4 October Visser will present her new publication as a result of this price.

Inside Design From 11 till 14 September Annet Gelink Gallery shows vintage furniture from Histoire in Arnhem in the scope of the Amsterdam Inside Design days.

Frieze Art Fair Annet Gelink Gallery will be participating in the Frieze Art Fair in London from 16-19 October.

Annet Gelink Gallery is open from Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. till 6 p.m. and on Saturday from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m.. Please contact for more information Floor Wullems or Carolien Sijberden, 020-3302066 or info@annetgelink.com