

KAREL VERHOEVEN (BE, 1982)

www.karelverhoeven.be

Karel Verhoeven is a Ghent based Belgian visual artist and researcher. In his work Verhoeven is mainly interested in the formal and autonomous qualities of constructed areas or in the specific relation to social interaction. Verhoeven teaches at Sint-Lucas Kunsthumaniora Gent, and is connected to LUCA Gent / Brussel, KULeuven and iArts Maastricht.

Project-wise, he is playing with images and material, deconstructing and reconstructing. He adapts existing places in a playful, sculptural and architectural way. This can result in a temporary or occasional integrated work in the public space, an exhibition, a cluster of situations, or performative work, a publication, screening or talk.

On a more research based manner Karel observes, analyses and captures specific demarcated places in relation to social interactions. Often combined with site specific interactions and interventions. Like an archaeologist he is looking for hidden material: artefacts, sound and video-material. Like an ethnograph, Verhoeven observes the relation between human interaction and our constructed area.

ABOUT THE WORK

'Caught Fish City Fish' (2018)

Various measurements

clay sculptures, silkscreen edition, live action

Verhoeven's fish project is a site-specific installation that shows the final stadium of a research project. Verhoeven, fascinated by fishermen, researches urban waters. He tries to redefine water and what its local history. A natural stream, a man made canal, a pont are not the same thing. The history often determines what kind hides in the water.

During the research phase Verhoeven took his two sons fishing. The surface of the water is a portal connecting a visible with an invisible world. Together they captured a multi-kilo barse. Would they, like sports-fishers pose with their trophies / measure the fish? And eventually throw the fish back? Or would they kill and eat the creature? Fish live at the end of the natural waste system - eventually all waste ends up in the oceans. How does this effect the fish? And the creatures that eat the fishes? In a way the waters seems to mirrors the condition human.

This proces resulted in a project where Verhoeven documents the fish that live in the nearby water of the exhibition and then recreates them by sculpting them out of white river clay. Verhoeven presented this project for the first time at Experimental Intermedia Ghent, curated by Lieve D'hondt. During the finissage, the spectators were invited to release the fish in the canal. Verhoeven made a project fish poster, offset pressed and published (text by Emi Kodama). For 404 - Page Not Found he adapted his project to the Leie river and its inhabitants.