

# Press Release Berlin, August 23, 2017

## Press Contact

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### **KW Institute for Contemporary Art announces Fall Program 2017**

KW Institute for Contemporary Art continues its examination of the political potential of communication by shifting the focus on notions of (cultural) representation, appropriation, and translation through the lens of the work of artists **Willem de Rooij** and **Lucy Skaer** as part of the fall season. Cultural authority, questions of authorship, and collaboration as a cross-cultural and cross-temporal strategy with all its moral and ethical consequences are guiding themes that unite the exhibitions and its accompanying program.

#### **Willem de Rooij**

##### ***Whiteout***

September 14 – December 17, 2017

Opening: September 13, 2017, 7–10 pm

**Press Preview during Berlin Art Week:** September 11, 2017, 12–1.30 pm

Willem de Rooij (born 1969 in Beverwijk, NL) investigates the production, contextualization and interpretation of images. His multifaceted practice includes photography, films, videos, sculpture, sound-recordings, and writing. Appropriated materials, such as found images, objects borrowed from art historical or ethnographic collections, or works by other artists play an important role. Willem de Rooij has been Professor at the Städelschule in Frankfurt am Main since 2006. In 2015, he founded BPA // Berlin Program for Artists together with Angela Bulloch and Simon Denny, and since 2016 he is a Visiting Advisor at the Rijksakademie in Amsterdam.

This fall, KW presents *Whiteout*—a selection of de Rooij's production from the last twenty years. The exhibition connects recent work with seminal pieces made together with Jeroen de Rijke (1970–2006), with whom de Rooij collaborated from 1994 to 2006 under the name de Rijke/de Rooij. Central to the selection of works that de Rooij installed at KW is the remote town Ilulissat in western Greenland. In 1997, Jeroen de Rijke and Willem de Rooij travelled to Greenland to produce the 16mm film *I'm Coming Home in Forty Days*, which depicts the circumnavigation of an iceberg in the bay of Ilulissat. The films of Jeroen de Rijke and Willem de Rooij center on the notion of "time." Images are often shot from a fixed perspective and are pared down in number. In 2014, Willem de Rooij returned to Ilulissat to record the howling of the thousands of sled dogs that inhabit the town. In a collective dialogue, these daily "briefings" connect different communities of dogs over distance and time. Recordings of their voices form the twelve-speaker sound installation *Ilulissat*, are presented in the main exhibition hall of KW. By presenting these two works together for the first time, de Rooij deliberately focuses on time, or more specifically on the presence of absence.

*Compound*

With **Richard Frater, Eric Bell & Kristoffer Frick, Armin Lorenz Gerold, Keto Logua, Mavis Tetteh-Ocloo, and Josef Tarrak Petrusson**

September 14 – December 17, 2017

*Compound* is a series of new productions by artists that have been invited by Willem de Rooij. These commissions will result into different forms of presentation spanning the time period of three months, varying from performances, and screenings to short-term exhibitions.

**Lucy Skaer**

October 13, 2017 – January 7, 2018

Opening: October 12, 2017, 7–10 pm

**Press Preview:** October 12, 2017, 11 am – 1 pm

For her exhibition at KW, British artist Lucy Skaer (born 1975 in Cambridge, GB) is presenting an ambitious new body of work embedded in a selection of existing works from the last ten years. The exhibition presents the most substantial survey of Skaer's work to date in Germany. Skaer draws on pre-existing imagery, narrative and forms shaped by biography, usage and industry standards shaped by mass production and global trade to make intuitive amalgamations of sculpture, film and print. Form, meaning, and value are traced in her work through various states of formal and allegorical existence.

For her new commission for KW, Lucy Skaer continues her scrutiny of the conventional classification of objects and production methods in critical exchange with art historical motives and references. Skaer aims to unite these leitmotifs that have long accompanied her work into one large-scale sculptural tableau. Here, she draws from her own oeuvre, reworking her existing sculptures to become representations of animals in a medieval hunting scenery referencing the famous *Livre de chasse*, a medieval transcript with miniature illuminations on Renaissance hunting techniques from 1331–91. Doing so, Skaer explores the mutable meaning of these works and playfully critiques their language of desire, their status as definitive works of art and their potential for self-reproduction. In line with her prevailing attitude she rejects the understanding of materials or works as finite things, recognizing every manifestation as only one latent version amongst many others. Skaer's sculptures function in that way more like idiosyncratic processes, which insert themselves into an already existing chain of material conversions and transformations, consuming one manifestation to give birth to another.

As part of the opening weekend, KW will screen *Why Are you Angry* (2017), the most recent film of the artists-duo Nashashibi/Skaer, embedded in a selection of their jointly made 16mm film works.

Alongside its exhibition program, KW is continuously pushing beyond the confines of the physical building through its commission program. These commissions are produced in order to present a different temporality and dedication to art production, in which the environment and architecture of both institutions—KW and the Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art—is challenged. New additions for this season are by **Julia Scher** and **Ian Wilson**.

Furthermore, the project *REALTY* focuses on the role of contemporary art in recent histories of gentrification. These days, it seems one artist, one venue, one model after another is being unmasked as being part of the problem. But we will not be discussing art's shortcomings yet again. Instead, *REALTY* asks how art's international playing field can be put to better use. It insists on moving beyond critique, and towards an attempt at productive models, however vague or naive. The KW leg of *REALTY* kicks off in October 2017, with a series of public lectures, workshops, and screenings. The project is conceived by Tirdad Zolghadr, KW's Associate Curator, and commissioned by KW and Sommerakademie Paul Klee Bern.

Senatsverwaltung  
für Kultur und Europa



Königreich der Niederlande



The project *Willem de Rooij and Lucy Skaer* is funded by the Senate Department for Culture and Europe, Berlin. The exhibition *Whiteout* by Willem de Rooij is kindly supported by the Mondriaan Fund and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Berlin. The exhibition by Lucy Skaer is kindly supported by the Henry Moore Foundation, and will travel to the Salzburger Kunstverein in February 2018.

The project by Josef Tarrak Petrusson is realized in cooperation with NORDWIND festival.

KW Institute for Contemporary Art is institutionally supported by the Senate Department for Culture and Europe.

### **KW Institute for Contemporary Art**

KUNST-WERKE BERLIN e. V.

Auguststraße 69

10117 Berlin

### **Opening Hours**

Wednesday–Monday 11 am–7 pm

Thursday 11 am–9 pm

Closed on Tuesday

### **Admission**

8 €, reduced 6 €

Admission free on Thursday evening from 6–9 pm

Combined Dayticket KW Institute for Contemporary Art / me Collectors Room Berlin

10 €, reduced 8 €

### **Free Guided Tours**

KW offers free guided tours through the exhibitions during regular opening hours.

For further information on tours for large groups (over 10 people) please contact Katja Zeidler at [press@kw-berlin.de](mailto:press@kw-berlin.de).

Titles and exhibition dates are subject to change.