

Concrete Evidence: 1m

03.05.2015 – 03.05.2016

Art Project by Lodewijk Heylen at the Hans-Baluschek-Park

Opening Saturday 2th of May 2015, 16 – 19 pm

Press release

In may 2015, *Concrete Evidence: 1m* will be presented to the public at the Hans-Baluschek-Park in Berlin, a sculpture existing of one meter of highway (scale 1:1) by the Belgian artists Lodewijk Heylen (born 1989).

Heylen is fascinated by the effects and impact of large scale building projects in our post industrial environment and the process of regulation, standardisation and normalisation associated with it. In his conceptual work, the transcendence of humanity through the means of machines and the temporal and spacial scale of change, caused by technological en intellectual development, takes a central place. Which consequences do these transformations of the urban landscape have on our current and future society?

Concrete Evidence: 1m takes reference to ‚Richtlinien für die Anlage von Straßen - RQ 36‘, a technical regulation for the design and construction of highways in Germany. This standardised road has a cross section of thirty-six meter and consists of two ways which each three lanes, capable of supporting between 50.000 and 100.000 vehicles per day, freight traffic included. The highway is only accessible by car or by truck. It forms a landscape of permanent movement, at a speed that fluctuates. But movement is imperative: onwards, without reversal, without stagnation.

The current highway network of Germany measures about thirteen thousand kilometers. It exists of an interconnected web from city to city and functions as a link between local communities. This modern building project is constantly being developed and will do so in the near future. It is a constant interference in our living environment and requests a continuous reevaluation of its relation towards the individual. With *Concrete Evidence: 1m*, Heylen brings the dimensions of the highway back to the human scale. The work outlines the systematic correlation between the human creation and the natural supremacy.

Heylen is working since 2013 on the implementation of *Concrete Evidence: 1m* in Berlin. The work consists of a series of nationally standardised highways that are part of a trans-European network. In 2012, *Concrete Evidence: 1m* was constructed at the Verbeke Foundation in Kemzeke (Belgium) according to Belgian standards. After two years of preparation, Heylen will finally expand *Concrete Evidence: 1m* into an international project in May 2015. The research towards the development of urban infrastructure and the connection between industrial normalisation and socio-historically formed values is hereby continued.

The site-specific work is presented at the Hans-Baluschek-Park and will be visible for at least one year at the location situated between the Natur-Park Südgelände, the S-Bahn station Südkreuz and the Berlin ringway A100. During the exhibition period, an event programme will be available with a thematic focus on the change and preservation in urban planning and the impact of artificial intervention in the natural environment.

You are hereby cordially invited at the opening of *Concrete Evidence: 1m* on the 2nd of May 2015 between 16h and 19h at Hans-Baluschek-Park.

More information about the opening and the program can be found on www.ce1m.lodewijkheylen.be

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Hans-Baluschek-Park (Free admission)
Near the S-Bahn station Südkreuz
Berlin, Germany

Concrete Evidence: 1m is curated by Frederiek Weda (NL, born 1988).

In collaboration with the department Arts, Culture, Museums in Tempelhof-Schöneberg. With kind support from Acta Non Verba - Straßenbau Berlin, The Flemish government, Grün Berlin, Dipl.-Ing. Jürgen Möller, VTO Verkehrstechnik GmbH.

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