AIR

Traces:

PRESS FILE

Opening September 6th
September 7th - October 5th
Curated by Alan Quireyns
AIR Traces: Austruweel
PRESS DAY
05.09.2014

Please inform us of your attendance:
pers@airantwerpen.be
Oosterweel, osterweel
(originally named Ousterweel, Austruweel, Osterwele and Otserwele - first mentioned in 1210)
a vanished Belgian polder village located in the north of Antwerp.

AIR Traces: Austruweel

Bisan Abu-Eisheh
Mounira Al Solh
Paul Becker
Jonathan De Winter
Reg Carremans
Chloé Dierckx
Laurent Dupont-Garitte
Carla Filipe
Stine Marie Jacobsen
Shaun Gladwell
Ria Pacquée
Karl Philips
Savage
Dennis Tyfus

Curated by Alan Quireyns

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AIR Traces: Austruweel

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Opening September 6th, 4pm
September 7th 2014 till Oktober 5th 2014

AIR Traces: Austruweel, is a group exhibition that brings together artists and AIR residents from all over Europe and the world. The first edition explores traces as an element of identity. The artists interact with AIR's immediate environment, questioning the border where the City of Antwerp merges with the harbor: a vast area, more precisely starting at the Red Star Line Museum and ending at the derelict St John the Baptist Church in the former village of Oosterweel. An area characterized by it's ambiguity, without definition, on a fault-line. What impact does the environment have on the residents? And how does it influence the work that they provide?

AIR Traces is a site-specific exhibition in the area where the city of Antwerp changes into the harbor: between the Red Star Line Museum and the Saint John the Baptist Church of Oosterweel. 14 National and international artists present new and existent art works using various locations within AIR’s surroundings, connected by a trajectory that can be followed by foot or bike. The exhibition focuses on the notion of the ‘trace’ as an element of identity.

The character of this area is known for its ambiguity. It has no clear status or definition and finds itself on the line of fracture between harbour and city. At first sight it seems empty, but in fact it is a magnet of all activities that are forbidden in the city, looking for place hidden of social control. You can sleep under a tree without being chasen away; you can tag your name without risking a fee; litter without guilt. In the same time this place offers an unique perspective on the city and its relation to heavy industry. As well regularly visited as abandoned it is full of contradictions that are used creatively by its visitors. This environment can be considered as a topographic translation of alienation: the feeling to be in the middle, between two borders and not to belong somewhere. In such a state you can only rely on intuition, superficial signs and traces. It is close to the feeling of being a foreigner.

The status of that what is left behind is manifold. The artists depart from all sorts of traces, real as well as fictive. Some use material traces of human presence such as graffiti, litter, a tent or temporary shelter. Others use historical traces found in the immediate environment: the remains of an ancient fortress; drifted boats owned by fisherman who abandon them after their retirement; a derelict church in the former village of Oosterweel. All these traces have one thing in common: they suggest a presence of a person or of something that took place. Sometimes through time a trace becomes the only souvenir of something, thus gaining an extra-ordinary status that contrasts its everyday character. They are all part of identity: next to a visual presence, they can also exist in a dialect, translation, habits and traditions.

Alan Quireyns, Curator
In close collaboration with the residents, AIR Antwerp has programmed several public events entitled AIR Tailor Made. Bisan Abu-Eisheh, Carla Filipe and Savage will give an insight into their artistic practice by converting the physical space of their studio into words. AIR Tailor Made is one of AIR Antwerp’s periodical engagements, allowing the artists in residency at AIR to present their work to the public. The interaction between artist and public is an essential part of AIR Tailor Made and in a certain sense influences the institution’s identity. These public events are initiated by the Artistic Director of AIR Antwerp, Alan Quireyns. Admission is free, and they take place within AIR Antwerp’s premises.

Wednesday September 17th 2014, 20:00 – Carla Filipe
Wednesday September 24th 2014, 20:00 - Savage
Wednesday October 1st 2014, 20:00 – Bisan Abu-Eisheh
AIR Traces: Location

Selection from the trail.
AIR Trail Traces:

All works of art, installations and video's will be connected through a main route, selected by the curator and accessible by vehicle, by bike or on foot. The site-specific exhibition also provides a number of routes that combine the exhibition venues with the rich history of the area. The locations are open to the public and free of charge. Guided tours will introduce the various works and will explain the thinking and production of the artists. If you would like to visit AIR Traces accompanied by a guide, please feel free to book a guided tour: pers@airantwerpen.be
AIR Traces: Location
Practical / AIR Traces, opening reception will be September 6th, 2014 at 4pm. This public event is initiated by Alan Quireyns, Artistic Director and Olivier Onghena, Chairman of the Board, AIR Antwerp. The evening will conclude with performances by Shaun Gladwell, Paul Becker and Jonathan Winter as a reception. The exhibition runs from Sunday, September 7th, 2014 till Sunday, October 5th, 2014, Thursday and Friday from 2pm to 6pm and on weekends from 11am till 7pm. Access to the exhibition is free of charge and the trail is easily accessible by bike or on foot. AIR Antwerp provides organized tours, reservation required: pers@airantwerpen.be

Due to construction works, AIR Antwerp will be difficult to reach by car. From 1/7 till 18/7 the access between the Londonstraat and the Rijnkaai will be blocked, the Rijnkaai remains accessible and from 18/8 till 26/9 the Kattendijkbrug will be fully closed, for vehicles.
AIR Traces: Location

Selection from the trail.
AIR Antwerp is an international residence project for artists. In the former lockman’s residence the project has obtained a fabulous post industrial location. It is located on the border between the old and the new harbour, close to the city centre. AIR Antwerp is more than a receptive workplace for artists from abroad. The organisation wishes to profile itself as a breeding ground for contemporary art, a place where art is developed and where artistic research is pursued. The organisation is active within the national and international visual arts network and undertakes collaborative ventures which can result in research oriented co-productions. Thanks to its setting in a city with a rich cultural history and an effervescent contemporary art scene, AIR Antwerp is capable of initiating a spontaneous dialogue between past and present, and the local and global.

AIR Antwerp is supported by the Flemish Community, the Port of Antwerp and The City of Antwerp. In 2014 AIR Antwerp locally collaborated with Extra City Kunsthall Antwerp, M HKA (Museum of Contemporary Art Antwerp), NICC, the Middelheim Museum, Studio Start vzw and St Lucas University College Antwerp. International collaboration in 2014 consists of the Kulturbunker Frankfurt am Main, Artistes-en-résidence Clermont-Ferrand, Kunsthalle Lissabon and ECAV Sierre.
Het team

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Images
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Campaign image
©Ria Pacquée

AIR Tailor Made
©Savage

*Bron, Wikipedia

Partners

The exhibition, AIR Traces, is supported by the Province of Antwerp, TOTAL, Image Building and Vedett.
AIR Antwerp is supported by the City of Antwerp, the Port of Antwerp, the Flemish Government and Vedett.
AIR Traces Location