

**Collection Satellite #2****BIK VAN DER POL: MOM, WHAT IS NATURE REALLY?**

KUNSTMUSEEN KREFELD / KAISER WILHELM MUSEUM  
16 NOVEMBER 2018 – 5 MAY 2019

Press Conference: 14 November 2018, 11 a.m., Kaiser Wilhelm Museum

Opening: 15 November 2018, 7 p.m., Kaiser Wilhelm Museum  
The artists are present

The Dutch artist duo Bik Van der Pol (since 1995) is presenting the second edition of the new Collection Satellite series. Founded in 2018, artists are invited to explore works from the holdings of the Kunstmuseen Krefeld. The exhibition assembled from their selection of works from the Krefeld collection underscores the significance of nature for human existence. A sound piece and a wall piece (made in collaboration with Thomas Artur Spallek) have been produced in a dialogue with the museum's holdings that add further layers of meaning to the exhibition.

The exhibition 'Mom, what is nature really?' by the Dutch artist duo presents circa 70 selected works from the collection of the Kunstmuseen Krefeld that address such themes as the landscape in art, industrialisation, climate change and the disappearance of nature. The selection is purely thematically motivated, not art historically. Based on the collection, Bik Van der Pol shows what shaped the 20th century and still shapes contemporary times. They employ photographs, paintings, sculptures, videos and drawings to create a parcours that reveals or intensifies the relationships between art and nature, history, journalism as well as life on earth. The title is taken from Georg Jappe's review of the 1971 Haus-Rucker-Co exhibition in Haus Lange titled COVER. In the course of that legendary show, the artist group encased Haus Lange in a protective covering, thus transforming the building into an artificial climate zone and calling attention to the already significant problem of environmental pollution and its consequences for humankind. Katia Baudin, director of the Kunstmuseen Krefeld, is pleased about the collaboration with Bik Van der Pol, especially because of the institutional museums' history: 'Almost 95 years ago, the Dutch artist Johan Thorn Prikker was the first to produce a site-specific work at the Kaiser Wilhelm Museum. By inviting Bik Van der Pol for Collection Satellite #2, we pick up this thread and again focus our attention on Dutch artists. With their site-specific works, the artist duo has frequently promoted a reflection on the role of art in society'.

The exhibition opens with the juxtaposition of a landscape by Heinrich Steinicke, a member of the Düsseldorf School of Painting, a photograph of the Ruhr River by Andreas Gursky as well as the video 'One to One' by Bik Van der Pol. The photograph, the painting and the video capture landscapes in a specific moment in time. They are witnesses to a permanently changing planet. The subsequent exhibition spaces forge a bridge from the earth's natural resources, their transformation in industrialised processes, the abstraction and artistic view of landscape to utopian thoughts about the future world.

To mark the occasion of the Collection Satellite #2, Bik Van der Pol have realised a thought-provoking sound piece based on exhibition reviews found in the museum's archives and which accompany the visitor through the exhibition. The artist duo has furthermore realized a wall piece in collaboration with the typographer Thomas Artur Spallek that adds a subtext to the exhibition. The quotations from the reviews of the exhibitions at the Kunstmuseen Krefeld, which can also be found in the sound piece, are rendered in the Saint Helena typeface that consists of symbols. The typeface is named after the Saint Helena olive tree that has been extinct since 2003. The typeface thus gives a voice and a form to an extinct species.

The accompanying programme as well as Studio 2 have been organised in collaboration with the Krefeld Umweltzentrum, Kommunalbetrieb Krefeld AöR, a municipal venue for sustainable environmental educational. Studio 2 is an art education space in the Kaiser Wilhelm Museum that enables interactive dealings with the

contents of the exhibitions. The programme accompanying the exhibition encompasses guided tours, workshops, a KunstImPuls event on 6 December 2018 and the Sparda-Tag on 20 January 2019.

#### Bik Van der Pol

Liesbeth Bik and Jos van der Pol have worked together under the name Bik Van der Pol since 1995. Each of the duo's projects begins with extensive research and dealings with the respective exhibition context. Their artistic practice is targeted at producing a dialogue between the public and the museum. Often collaborative in nature, their projects offer communicative platforms for the activities of diverse groupings. The artists have already created museum interventions in the past that occupy themselves with aspects of the collection in question. They have already realised exhibitions at the MACRO Museum (Rome), the Secession (Vienna), the Witte de With, Centre of Contemporary Art (Rotterdam) and the Perez Art Museum (Miami). They participated at the 2016 GwangJu Biennale and at the 2014 Sao Paulo Biennale. Liesbeth Bik and Jos van der Pol live and work in Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

#### Collection Satellites – a project series of the Kunstmuseen Krefeld

The Collection Satellite is a new semi-annual exhibition and project series of the Kunstmuseen Krefeld in which artists, designers, choreographers, writers etc. are invited to innovative exploration and occupation with individual works or groups of works from the museum's own collections. The collection as the identificational heart of the museum serves as starting point and catalyst for new artistic projects. The series of publications will accompany the Collection Satellites.

Featuring works by: Bik van der Pol, Vito Acconci, Josef Albers, Mamma Andersson, Lothar Baumgarten, Bernd and Hilla Becher, Jan Dibbets, Hein Engelskirchen, Andreas Gursky, Hans Haacke, Ulrich Rückriem, Michel Sauer, James Webb, Christopher Williams, etc.

Sparda-Bank West Foundation is the partner of the Collection Satellite series.



The exhibition is additionally supported by



Curator: Constanze Zawadzky

The following exhibitions are simultaneously on show at the Kaiser Wilhelm Museum:

*Tailored for Freedom: The Artistic Dress in 1900 in Fashion, Art and Society* · Volker Döhne. *Sucher and Finder*

Printable graphical material for the exhibition can be found at our homepage.

User name: press  
Password: museum-kr

Kaiser Wilhelm Museum  
Joseph-Beuys-Platz 1  
47798 Krefeld

#### OPENING HOURS

Tue – Sun 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. · For special opening hours on holidays, see [www.kunstmuseenkrefeld.de](http://www.kunstmuseenkrefeld.de)

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