

Neeltje van der Vlugt

Creative Statement

I am interested in exploring how we can find moments of togetherness and connection in an overstimulating world, where so many devices and media compete for our attention. It can be difficult to find moments of rest and reflection, and to preserve our memories and make them more tangible. While collaboration can be a powerful tool for building community, I believe that artworks themselves also have the power to foster a sense of shared experience and connection.

My work often has a dreamy tone, inviting viewers to enter into a space of imagination and reflection. Through my work, I aim to create environments and experiences that encourage people to slow down and take a break from the constant barrage of information and stimuli that we encounter every day.

For me, fostering connection also involves creating spaces that bring people together. Creating communal space extends beyond me making art and I am continuing to seek out ways to bring people together in different ways. I aim to explore the potential of public spaces, whether it's transforming a gallery into a park or hosting a picnic.

One of my main sources of inspiration comes from the imaginary worlds of online virtual spaces and games, as well as the early social media platforms of the 2000s. These immersive and playful environments evoke a sense of nostalgia for a time in my childhood when memories felt more tangible.

My creative approach involves using virtual spaces as inspiration and then integrating physical elements to ground them in reality. The mystical elements in my work help me to bridge the gap between the two worlds and provide a sense of connection that is both ethereal and tangible. In the work you can see elements of erosion, blurring and remaking the original object to evoke a sense of nostalgia and otherworldliness. By integrating these elements into virtual spaces and grounding them in physical reality, I aim to create a shared experience that people can long for together.

Selected works

Office Playground

Somewhere In the South Of the City

Tungsten Pavilion

Dinner For Two

Golf Park In the Snow

The red thing (revisited)

'Office Playground'



Office Playground nr 2020

Video installation

iMac, aluminium, plastic wire, wall filler, plaster, velour
80cm x 50cm x 80cm



I have been a great fan of playgrounds for a long time. During the lockdown of 2020, I was walking around Amsterdam by myself, trying to find all of them. This fascination, combined with my interest for digital worlds, resulted in this desk-installation. I wanted to find a way to make a connection between both real and imaginative worlds, the playground creates a perfect link. The work refers to daydreaming while at work, wanting to escape the cubicle and to the silent pain of being too much of an adult to play. The melancholic space behind the screen is so close yet so far way.

[Watch video \(2min\)](#)

* Tungsten Pavilion

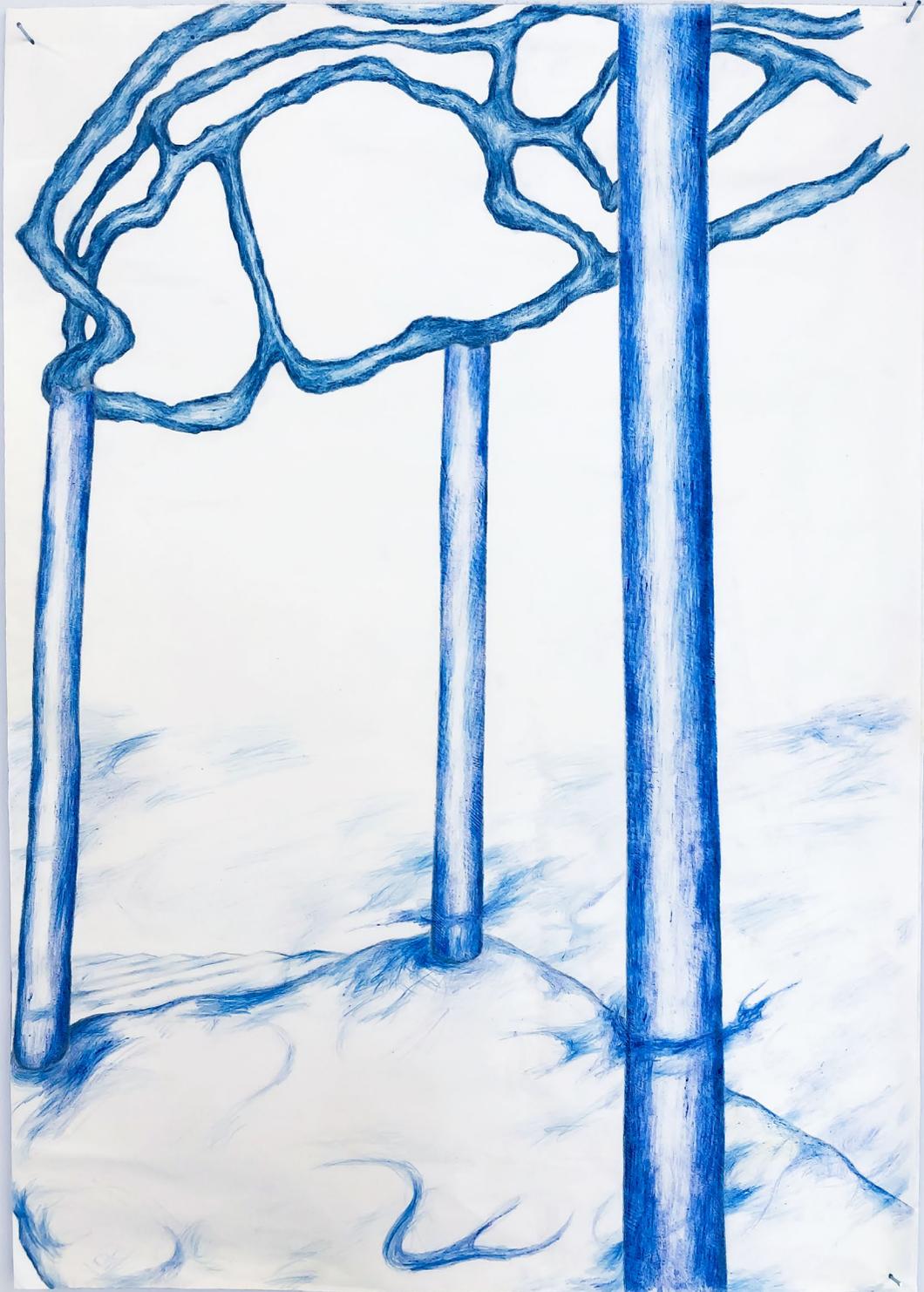


* Tungsten Pavilion, 2021

Ceramics, plexiglass, nuts, bolts
24cm x 12cm



Sadly, I cannot think in clear images, but rather in sketch-like lines that become doodles feeling almost as if an AI of the mind generates these shapes. On paper, the doodles have created a space for thinking, a dreamlike pavilion as seen on the right. The Tungsten Pavilion is embodied in a set of ceramic building blocks that can be shaped into many different Pavilions.



Dinner For Two



Dinner for two 2021

Dinner table set for two people

Porcelain, Ceramics, sugar, aromas, food coloring, glycerine, potato starch, wood
100x100cm

In today's fast paced society things tend to only last for a moment. Meetings and dates eventually become a part of our boring routine and we forget to appreciate things like intimacy and spontaneity. The value of the meeting itself has been reduced.

The intention of this orchestrated environment is to make the meeting extraordinary. Inspired by Luis Buñuel's film *The Phantom of Liberty*, this is a set-design for a dinner where everything is a bit off. The beverage makes the glass melt, you are eating toilet paper and the cutlery makes your hands sticky.



Somewhere In the South Of the City

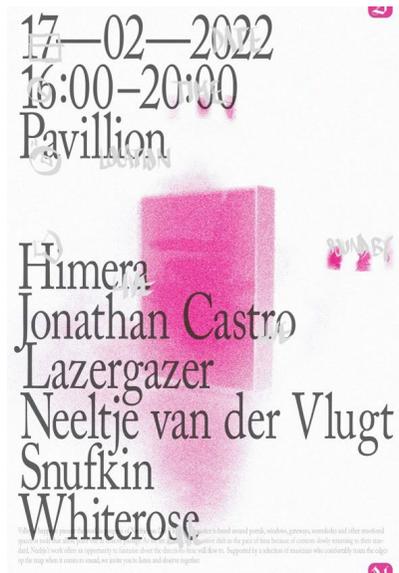


∞ Somewhere In the South Of the City ∞ 2022

Installation

Plexiglass prints, wooden lightboxes
3x 66cm x 90cm x 22cm

When we look through the portals we see the journey to a parallel universe, each portal showing you a different moment in time, frozen. Looking at them from the middle, the viewer is placed at an imaginary astral plane—the void in between the universes. The story originates from a conspiracy about the existence of parallel universes, the multiverse, and stories about entering the 'other' universe.



This installation was presented at the Rietveld Pavilion on 17/2/2022 by [Valley](#), an online radio, platform and label that unites people through forms of sound, text and visuals. The work was supported by a selection of musicians.



> Golf Park in the Snow



> Golf Park in the Snow 2022

Tufted carpet

Sheep wool

120cm x 120cm



During the winter months when the lakes were frozen, we took a route over the ice that otherwise wouldn't have been possible and discovered uncharted territories. We were leaving our tracks in the snow where no one had walked before. A small adventure. In "Golf Park in the Snow" these temporary tracks are taken and turned into a tangible object that we could then use to hang out on to reminisce about our small adventure and the ones to come.



The red thing (revisited)



The red thing (revisited) 2022

Keys

Carved wax
24cm x 7cm, 18cm x 6cm

Print

Duotone screenprint
A1

Painting

Oil paint on wood
50 cm x 50 cm



CV

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27 January 1996

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Education

2019 - 2023

DesignLAB, BA Art & Design
Gerrit Rietveld Academie, Amsterdam

Internships

2022

Production assistant, Gent 019, Gent (BE)

Professional experience

2022 - current

Founder and coordinator, Rietveld Living
Room, Amsterdam

2022 - current

Member, Student Support Group, Gerrit
Rietveld Academie

2021

Assistant coordinator, context mapping project
by Perception Design Studio, Amsterdam

2021

Chair member, Educational Committee,
Gerrit Rietveld Academie

2021 - current

Chair member, Verkiezingen, Gemeente
Amsterdam

2019 - 2022

Assistant, Public Rietveld, Public Relations
Department, Gerrit Rietveld Academie

2018 - 2020

Librarian, Openbare Bibliotheek Amsterdam

Exhibitions

2023

Uncut: Refuge – fleeing, flowing leaking, Group Exhibition, Stedelijk
Museum, Amsterdam

2022

[Valley @ Pavilion, Gerrit Rietveld Pavilion, Amsterdam](#)

2021

Spam, Group Exhibition, De Bouwput, Amsterdam

Source?, Group Exhibition, NEVERNEVERLAND, Amsterdam

TRILLBOUW, Group Exhibition, De Bouwput, Amsterdam

2020

Gymfest, Group Exhibition, Dokzaal, Amsterdam

Curator

2022

Sludge Sanctuary, Waternet Rioolwaterzuivering, Amstelveen