

NO TODO ~ NIET ALLES

An exhibition in an Archival box / A homage to Ulises Carrión

curated by Inez Piso / Johan Deumens Archive / Amsterdam / NL

Opening Friday 21th June, 5 pm.

at the Johan Deumens Archive, Westerdok 782 Amsterdam.

This tiny exhibition aims at expanding a network and connecting artists by means of their ideas around translation, mailable art, affection for books in a digital world. They expand the definition of what a library, a book, a sentence and a work can be. Their works inhabit that exciting emptiness in between the lines of a text, the blank of a page or a forgotten archival box.

No Todo – Niet Alles takes place in an archival box that once belonged to the legendary archive of Ulises Carrion in Amsterdam. The box reappeared from the shelves of another archive of artists' books runned by Johan Deumens. As a thread from a lost carpet, this box connects two archival structures: the archive of Ulises Carrion and the archive of Johan Deumens.

According to Johan Deumens Carrion was a philosopher and essayist who finally became an artist of the appearance and disappearance. His speciality was infiltration in a certain medium in order to also disappear again. In the most ideal case he would stay invisible, as a strategist, an abstract entity. His strongest points never have been the lasting and tangible, his practice was more about initiating collaborations. When Carrion's archive was dismantled in 1989, Johan Deumens took the empty archival boxes to his own archive, where they started hosting other publications. After a passing of time and failing of conversation purposes, the boxes were discarded and disappeared totally from this archive. Until one day, 30 years later, one of these boxes turned up in a corner of the archive, that even the archivist himself didn't remember.

It's re-appearance brought along an empty space full of intriguing questions. If the function of an archive is conservation, why does oblivion always lurk upon every document? And if the goal of an archive is to survive in time, why do archival methods become so rapidly outdated?

The exhibition takes place in the space of Carrion's archival box, with contributions by artists that devote their practice to the contradiction inherent to an archive. It connects artists through photocopied publications, gestures, mailed work, objects that create letters and documents of etymological dissections. They all co-exist in the exciting emptiness of an archival box.

With a proposition of infinity, just like any archive doesn't have an end date, this exhibition is due to grow with more contributions throughout the years by artists that respond and relate to the topics and strategies that drove Ulises Carrion's practice.

This way the ongoing exhibition No Todo – Niet Alles shows that these strategies and ideas are very much still alive and relevant even today. It acknowledges the ever incompleteness of an archive, the various shapes a text can take, how words can be translated and the infinite ways of inhabiting an empty space of an archival box.

(Inez Piso, may 2019)

Contributions by Annesas Appel, Frans Baake, Sibylle Eimermacher/Martin Brandsma, Ricardo Cardenas, Jimena Crusari, Enric Farres Duran, Jordi Ferreiro, Anett Frontzek, Serkan Kaptan, Ton Martens, Vibeke Mascini, Martin La Roche, Eva Parra, Laura Samsom Rous, Peter Roland Spaans, Rosa Sijben, Robin Waart, Omar Vega Macotella, Berkay Tuncay, Gee Wesley, Mariken Wessels, Peter Vermeulen