

Klaas Vanhee

Rental Rubber

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***Rental Rubber
And Other High Risk Strategies***

This summer I started bouldering. At first on the brick wall opposite to my studio, then projecting a route under a bridge close to my home. By the time I was traversing around the holiday house, I knew I wanted to take it seriously.

It made me look at my work from a distance; what am I actually doing? I imagined a documentary photographer making photo's of my studio, fragments, things. With this distant, docu-way of looking I started to make drawings.

The works themselves, although based on documentary photo's, display things and places which are usually hidden for the public; images of advertising in my mailbox, the study where I draw, my big studio full of dirt, dust, scrap material and unfinished pieces. Three spaces I need to make the work happen.

With the logic of inscripture and erasure, an inherent quality of drawing, in mind, I got interested in doing something with the ever-too-overwhelming amount of advertising emails in my mailbox. Before unsubscribing another mailing list, I would make a drawing for each email. Soon enough realising I would have to draw faster then they can send mails to be able to catch up. That lead to an even more impersonal method of drawing, giving me the role of a mixture between an impressionist painter and a color-laser-printer, almost not knowing what I'm drawing, just looking at form and color.

What is extremely satisfying to me is that it touches everything that is in my field of interest, but pushed through one medium, soft pastel on paper: All the spaces I work in, all the media I love; methodical as printmaking, color, form and plain as in painting, sculptural works combined, as in installation.

Rental Rubber is a term borrowed from one of Magnus Midtbø's YouTube video's. It refers to the climbing shoes you can rent in the climbing gym, made with lesser rubber. If you fail on a climb, you can always point down and explain: 'rental rubber!'

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