

jeanine hofland
contemporary art

Alongside#:

Sandberg Institute: A Festival of Choices

Double Doors

Sophia Holst

3 - 7 July 2013

Finissage Sunday 7 July, 17.00h-19.00h

Double Doors is a permanent work by Dutch artist Sophia Holst in the garden of Jeanine Hofland Contemporary Art. It investigates the borders of the gallery both literally and metaphorically. Rather than focusing on the space inside the gallery, Holst decided to turn the attention towards the somewhat forgotten garden space. The separating fence between the gardens has been taken down, and is replaced by an architectural structure that expands from the gallery's backyard into the surrounding properties.

This work was initiated after the observation of a particular spatial situation in which the shops next to the gallery had left their gardens as if they were the backside of a painting (functionally present but visually absent). Piled up tiles, white plastic chairs, leftover wood (previous exhibitions) next to garbage functioned as a visual border between the several properties of the shops and the gallery. Though some upcoming treasures were there, like a grape tree planted by the shoemaker next door and the green of a former school garden that was gradually growing over the closed off fence.

Since this project was not a commission, but instead self initiated, the neighbors had to put into question what this space actually meant for them and how they wished to relate towards each other; something they had never considered before. They had to confirm themselves into a small political game in which statements had to be made (even if they decided not to participate). The relations and agreements between them are now imprinted within the work, which resulted in an 'unequal' object instead of the 'equal' objective fence that was there before. It puts into question if the straight borders that we often create both mentally and physically are as obvious as they seem. The properties that are set out (for us) do not have to correspond to their actual borders; they can easily change, withdraw, expand and interfere.

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