
Concept 'Na Regen Komt Zonneschijn'

2007

The Rijksgebouwendienst has commissioned Martijn Sandberg to make a proposal for a site-specific artwork in connection with the renovation of the Ministry of Economic Affairs building on the Bezuidenhoutseweg in The Hague. Sandberg's plan concentrates around the building's two patios. Both patios mirror each other in the building, originally of such symmetry in its design.

Economy and emotion

The economy resembles an organic system. It has its ups and downs. In the process of rising and falling, there is a natural development in the economy. Prices fall and prices rise. Over and over again, a valley follows a peak and after the descent, there is an ascent once more. The economy is like life: the eternal exchange between prosperity and misfortune. The process of economics has no beginning and no end. An infinite loop. Non-stop.

Economic affairs and emotional affairs are inextricably entwined with each other. Comparison of the 'flux', the flow of the economy and the alteration in weather circumstances unite in image and language, in art and in music. That is a fact, one we all recognise, if we look to the many rich images in our culture and history which once were sung about or imagined, and which crop up in our everyday remarks: tears and rain, coins and rain, 'pennies from heaven', 'raindrops keep fallin' on my head', 'rain and sunshine', 'golden rain'.

We are confronted with it every day: sun or rain, warm or cold air, storm or a lot of rain. The weather is just like the economy, is just like life. We can see weather conditions and the economy as the gauge of our emotion.

Compare processes in the economy of our country, of Europe, of the West or the whole world with this, and development in the economy can be compared to a natural process, as banal and commonplace as the weather. In other words, we are all influenced by the economy, in the same way as we look outside every day and ask ourselves what the weather will bring us. Just like the weather, the economy influences our emotion. We can see the weather as a metaphor for the economy and life.

Chance of rain

Isn't the glass of both patios obviously extremely suitable as location for allowing this comparison, so familiar to us all, to overlap? The poetry of the economy and weather conditions, transformed as rain in a typographic design, consisting of drops, spread over the glass of the window, 'the transparent membrane between inside and outside'?

After rain comes sunshine

Will it be good or bad weather today? We look outside from inside, and raindrops fall upon the patio glass. The drop fractures the light that enters and we see all the colours of the rainbow in the drop. More and more drops fall on the glass of the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

A pattern of letters becomes visible in the unremitting flow of raindrops. A report, and then another report, again a weather report, written with raindrops as precipitation upon the glass: 'na regen komt zonneschijn', 'na zonneschijn komt regen', 'na regen komt zonneschijn'. *)

*) 'after rain comes sunshine', 'after sunshine comes rain', 'after rain comes sunshine'.

(Excerpts text concept by Martijn Sandberg, October 2007).

Title: 'Na Regen Komt Zonneschijn'

Artist: Martijn Sandberg

Location: Ministerie van Economische Zaken, Den Haag/ NL

Material: three-dimensional (half) raindrops of glass, exterior glass 2x patio

Size: raindrops of glass (lxwxh) 14cm x 10cm x 5cm (indication), glass 2x patio

Concept and design: October 2007

Commissioned by: Rijksgebouwendienst, Den Haag/ NL

Architects: Hans Ruijsenaars Architects and NAT Architects, Amsterdam

'Noting that the economy is similar in its variations with the weather, the artist traces raindrops on a structure which also reflects the sunlight. Irony of fate: the renovation of the ministry was cancelled in 2007 for economic reasons.'

(Excerpt text, article in Etapes Magazine no. 165, 2009. Pyramyd Edition, Paris).

www.msandberg.nl
