
Martijn Sandberg

Image Messages

The work of Amsterdam based visual artist Martijn Sandberg (1967) constantly explores border areas, such as the tension between text and image, illegible into legible, the private and the public domain. "I make Image Messages, image is message is image." The image hides the message.

In the cut paintings, such as 'Sorry No Image Yet' and 'Im Westen Nichts Neues', there is a subtle play between the language of the image and the significance of the image, and this gives rise to questions. Here, the lack of image seems to be elevated to an image by the artist.

The direct relationship between the image, the material bearing the image and the environment is also expressed in his site-specific works in public space and architecture. As in the artwork 'De Oude Weg Naar De Nieuwe Tijd' that is integrated as brick relief in the walls of the gates and the pavement of building Spaarndammerhart, Amsterdam, and the sculpture 'I Will Survive' located at the border of a burial ground in Hardenberg, The Netherlands.

CV Martijn Sandberg, 1967 NL, visual artist, creates Image Messages, lives in Amsterdam. 1986-1991 HKU Academy of Arts, dpt. Fine Art, Utrecht; 1990-1991 Rijks Academy of Fine Arts, dpt. Fine Art, Amsterdam. Exhibitions and projects since 1992 throughout Europe. Selected site-specific artworks in public spaces and architecture: 'We're Only In It For The Money', SVB Bank, Zaandam, NL (2000); 'Power To The People', Hoofddorpplein, Amsterdam, NL (2000); 'No Image No Message', Pizzart Cafe, Fribourg, CH (2003); 'Forever Young', OSG Singelland College, Drachten, NL (2005); 'Hallo, Is Daar Iemand?' ('Hello, Is Anybody There?'), 'Ben Even Weg' ('Out For A Moment'), Floriande, Hoofddorp, NL (2007); 'If These Walls Could Speak', OBA Centrale Bibliotheek, Amsterdam, NL (2007); 'Pas op! Kunst!' ('Watch out! Art!'), Dropstuff.nl, Museum De Paviljoens, Almere, NL (2008); 'I Will Survive', LOC, Hardenberg, NL (2008); 'Forever in Stone', Olympisch Kwartier, Amsterdam, NL (2004-2008); 'Glass Fragile Handle With Care', Stadshoven, Weidevenne, Purmerend, NL (2009); 'Karel Appel Was Hier' ('Karel Appel Was Here'), Karel Appel House, Amsterdam, NL (2010); 'De Sleutel Ligt Onder de Deurmat' ('The Key Is Under the Doormat'), De Zilverling, Colijnstraat, Amsterdam, NL (2012); 'U Heeft Tien Bewaarde Berichten' ('You Have Ten Saved Messages'), Synagogue LJG, Amsterdam, NL (2013); 'Melodie' ('Melody'), Couperus, Ypenburg, Den Haag, NL (2013); 'Het Wapen van Lochem' ('The Lochem Arms'), Town Hall, Lochem, NL (2013); 'Morgen Komt Alles Goed' ('Tomorrow Everything Will Be Alright'), Kraaipan square, Hofmeyrstraat, Amsterdam, NL (2013); 'Van Hier Naar Daar' ('From Here To There'), bridge, Oosterpolder, Hoorn, NL (2016); 'One More Wall Well Done', First, Weena, Rotterdam, NL (2016); 'Science Please', Faculty FWN, Bèta Campus, Leiden, NL (2017). 'U Bevindt Zich Hier' ('You Are Here'), Oranje Vrijstaatkade, Amsterdam (2019); 'Make Love Not War', Tapijnkazeme (Tapijn Barracks), Maastricht (2020); 'De Oude Weg Naar De Nieuwe Tijd', Spaarndammerhart, Krommeniestraat, Amsterdam (2020-2021); 'Kunst Met Een Draai' ('Art With A Twist'), residential area De Draai, Dijk en Waard, Heerhugowaard (2023). Selected other projects: 'Cut Painting!', cut paintings and personal selection of BPD Kunstcollectie (BPD Art Collection), Burgerweeshuis Amsterdam (2022); 'Wenn Alle Künste Untergehen' ('If All Arts Are Lost'), tea towel, multiple edition, manufactured at: Textiellab, Tilburg, NL (2015); 'My Last Penny', Jaarpenning 2010/ Art Medal 2010, VPK, NL (2010); stamp design 'Zakelijke Postzegels 2005'/'Business Stamps 2005', TPG Post BV, NL (2005); 'We're Only In It For The Money', coin, multiple edition, production: Royal Dutch Mint, Utrecht, NL (2000). Teaching: teacher at department Beeld & Taal (Image & Language), Gerrit Rietveld Academie, Amsterdam, semester Sept-Dec 2009. Committee member: advisor visual art, Commissie voor Welstand en Monumenten, Amsterdam, period 2010-2012. Member advisory board: Klankbordgroep Onderzoek Monumentale Wandkunst (Research Post-War Monumental Art) in Amsterdam, Bureau Monumenten en Archeologie, Municipality Amsterdam, 2017/2018/2020. Awards: Project Spaarndammerhart, 'De Oude Weg Naar De Nieuwe Tijd', Amsterdam (2020); Amsterdamse Nieuwbouwprijs 2022, Arie Kepplerprijs 2022, Zuiderkerkprijs 2021, Abe Bonnemapijs 2021. Project Kraaipan, 'Morgen Komt Alles Goed', Amsterdam (2013); Zuiderkerkprijs 2013, Amsterdamse Nieuwbouwprijs 2014. For extended CV, see website.

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