

Stedelijk Museum Schiedam

Art Minded V: Ron Klein Breteler collection

24 May – 23 August 2009

From 24 May to 23 August, the Stedelijk Museum Schiedam will present the fifth edition of the series **Kunst uit huis (Art Minded)** which focuses on private collections. **Art Minded V: Ron Klein Breteler collection** displays a representative selection of around 120 works from a collection that normally adorns the splendid house on the harbours in Schiedam. For several decades, Ron Klein Breteler has been collecting art works that are characterized by a preference for the materiality and the skin of the painting, photography and, equally, sculpture. Schiedam has brought forth a considerable group of talented artists such as Daan van Golden, Albert Verkade, Sarah van de Pols, Esther Zitman etc. These artists are well represented in the collection. As an engaged inhabitant of Schiedam he follows the cultural developments in the city.

The skin of the painting

When Ron Klein Breteler talks about works from his collection, he makes ample use of his hands, as if he is feeling the surface of the works between his fingertips. For example, he can describe the work of the Belgian artist Willy de Sauter right down to the finest details and can depict how it has been constructed and what the tactility of the skin is. Superficially, the conclusion can be drawn that a part of the collection can be attributed to the so-called 'cool abstraction'; many works are monochrome or are an interplay of colour. Ron Klein Breteler bases his choice on the style of painting and the use of paint as substance and building material. Armando, Joachim Bandau, Marian Breedveld, Stefan Gritsch, Joachim Grommek, Jerry Keizer, David Lindberg, Jurriaan Molenaar, Henk Peeters, Tomas Rajlich, Herman de Vries represent this principle and all of these are abundantly represented in the collection.

Photography

Ron Klein Breteler purchases a remarkable amount of photography in which architecture and spatiality play an important role. This is not surprising because his profession is that of architect and urban planner. Thinking in terms of volumes, structures and frameworks is part of his make-up. The photo by Job Koelewijn, *A Balancing Act* (1998/2000) is about architecture. Koelewijn is standing like a juggler with an enormous stack of glass dishes between the skyscrapers in New York. The minor 'skyscraper' he has in his hands encourages the viewer to look more closely and more intensively at the buildings all around.

Other artists who deal with architecture and spatiality and whose work Breteler has in his collection include Fons Brassier, Jan Fabre, Scarlett Hooft Graafland, Irmel Kamp, Jean-Marc Spaans.

Sculpture

In his choice of sculpture, too, Ron Klein Breteler's preference again extends to materiality, structures and architectonic volumes, as in the work of Fons Brassier, Sjoerd Buisman, Cor van Dijk, Heringa/Van

Kalsbeek, Ronald in 't Hout, David Lindberg, François Morellet, Jan van Munster, Piet Tuytel, Albert Verkade and Auke de Vries.

But here another aspect of the collector is highlighted: a love of absurdist and surrealist objects that are not easy for the viewer to fathom. It seems as if the objects have a certain usefulness but that is pure pretence: a neon light (Pinball 2000, 2000) by Woody van Amen is not a lamp; pipes that have been suspended in a cage (Antenna, 2009) by Rolf Engelen carry no electricity or water; nothing can be hung on the rings of Arjanne van der Spek's Lucht 2 (2002).

Ron Klein Breteler's collection is enormously varied. A striking feature is that a large part of the artists came from or live in the Netherlands or Belgium. There are exceptions and these are also of remarkable quality, such as Baldessari, Bandau and Morellet.

The third issue of **Bulletin 2009** features a diary written by Ron Klein Breteler. The Bulletin will be published on 1 July.

NOTE FOR THE EDITOR

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Hours of opening

Tuesday to Sunday, 10.00 – 17.00

Closed on Mondays, Christmas Day and New Year's Day

Admission

€5.00 adults

€2.50 discount for Pass65 and children 4 to 12 years old

free children under 4 years old, Friends of the Museum, Museum Annual Card, Rotterdam pass, Rembrandt Association, and ICOM pass

On Wednesdays admission is free.