

Galerie Dukan

FOLKERT DE JONG (*1972)

Pilgrim

Galerie Dukan, Leipzig
22th, April - 27th, Mai 2017
Opening: 22th, April 2017

Spinnerei Rundgang: 29th - 30th, April 2017

"A pilgrimage is a journey or search of moral or spiritual-significance. Typically, it is a journey to a shrine or other-location of importance to a person's beliefs and faith, although sometimes it can be a metaphorical journey into someone's own beliefs."



Folkert de Jong
Pilgrim, 2017
Studio shot

The Galerie Dukan Leipzig is proud to present the new solo exhibition *Pilgrim* of Folkert de Jong.

For the very first time, Folkert de Jong will be presenting his works in Leipzig. From the 22nd April 2017, Galerie Dukan will be showing his life size sculptures and artworks, that relate to the concept of the pilgrim and the differing meanings surrounding the pilgrim's journey. Central to this is a metaphorical search, of great moral significance, in the art making process - the journey of an idea as it becomes an artwork. The soul inhabiting the body and using it as a means of transport in the journey of life.

Folkert de Jong was born in 1972 in Egmond aan Zee in the Netherlands, he lives and works in Amsterdam. He studied at the Academie of Fine Arts and at the Rijksacademie van beeldende kunsten in Amsterdam. Before he made life size sculptures, for which he became famous, he designed performances. These often took place in nature without any observers. Sometimes they were recorded. Since 2001, de Jong has focused only on his sculptural practice. Made of polyurethane and styrofoam, materials associated with transportation or insulation, a performative element is introduced to the works construction: the industrial foam solidifies in a few seconds, meaning Folkert de Jong has to work in a great hurry. Despite all preparation, coincidence determines what the work will look like in the end. De Jong's sculptures show scenes influenced by the aesthetics of horror, war, conflict and politics. Nevertheless every figure is equally grotesque, there is no "good" or "bad". The oeuvre of Folkert de Jong develops incessantly, in which he sets down a history in a fictive temporality halfway between reminiscence and anticipation.

De Jong has exhibited in renowned museums around the world: in the Groninger Museum in the Netherlands, the Arario Seoul in South Korea, the Middelheimmuseum in Antwerp, Belgium, in the Portland Art Museum in Oregon, USA and in the Musée d'Evreux in France. His artworks inhabit the collections of many museums.

This exhibition is kindly supported by the Embassy of Netherlands in Berlin