

title: Ger van Elk

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Case researcher: Sanneke Stigter

Ger van Elk

Ger van Elk (1941) focuses on the perception and the functionality of the image in art and in western culture in general. Having started his artistic career in the sixties, participating in exhibitions like Harald Szeeman's 'When attitudes become form' in 1969, his work is sometimes connected to conceptual art, although it is constituted out of more than only the idea. It can be very poetic.

His favourite tools for exploring the nature of the image are photography and film, which he uses in an unconventional way combining it with various materials and techniques creating unique painterly or sculptural work. The generated images are often manipulated after processing for instance by airbrush with crayon, watercolour, paint and more recently with digital techniques.

The idea of the work lies within the relation it bears to reality, sometimes foregrounding the role of the artist, the artwork or the function of the image. Once the visual play in the artwork becomes apparent, it will make the spectator become aware of the act of looking, invoking reflection upon visual perception.



Ger van Elk in his Amsterdam studio
Photo: Sanneke Stigter, April 4, 2003

An artist's interview was conducted by curator Piet de Jonge and conservator Sanneke Stigter on April 4 2003

Biography and expositions are listed on the website of 'de Expeditie', the gallery representing Ger van Elk in The Netherlands:
<http://www.de-expeditie.com/index.php?14>

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