



# Kunstraum *Late Nights & Early Mornings* with Willem Besselink

21 JUNE – 11 JULY 2013

*Late Nights & Early Mornings* is Kunstraum's summer program, a back-to-back relay race of five exhibitions running through till September. Starting off the series will be Rotterdam-based artist, Willem Besselink, who will be joined in the second exhibition by Swedish artist Jacob Dahlgren. With each new opening one artist will swap places with the next: Willem Besselink and Jacob Dahlgren (12 July – 1 August), Jacob Dahlgren and Edward Clydesdale Thomson (2–22 August), Edward Clydesdale Thomson and Florian & Michael Quistrebart (from 23 August). *Late Nights & Early Mornings* aims to discover new relationships between artists working in different localities, at the same time it explores the idea of the exhibition space as a site of constant activity. The title of the program is suggestive of the activity which takes place in the gallery outside of the regular opening hours.

In this first exhibition Willem Besselink presents his 'iCal' series of paintings which visualize his weekly schedule throughout 2012, and three light-boxes from his ongoing series 'slapen / waken' (asleep / awake). In his practice Besselink takes different groups of data from his own life as the basis of his works.

For the 'iCal' series Besselink kept track of his daily activities for one year. His weekly actions were classified according to six categories, each with a corresponding colour code: green for 'work'; purple for 'second job'; red for 'at home / private'; orange for 'leisure'; yellow for 'sport'; and blue for 'travelling'. The data is rendered in household gloss on 30 x 30 cm panels reminiscent of the standard calendar program on mac computers. Non-scheduled activities (e.g. sleeping) were not recorded, as these are not normally included in a calendar. On the surface 'iCal' is reminiscent of a purely formal investigation in paint, but in fact provides an abstracted glimpse at the personal details of the artist's life.

'slapen / waken' presents a different set of data, the hours through each month that the artist is either asleep or awake, the lit area representing the artist's hours of consciousness. Just as with 'iCal' we can see that patterns emerge, the second box showing a downward trajectory over the New Year period as the artist's sleep pattern is altered and then rights itself as the next year continues. The hours at which a person is awake or asleep is a fact both determined by physiological factors as well as by lifestyle choices. 'slapen / waken' does not let on which factor had the greater influence, in fact like 'iCal' it gives a lot of information away while holding the viewer at arms length. We can never know the content of the working hours or sporting activity which 'iCal' represents.