

Kunstraum

Late Nights & Early Mornings with Willem Besselink and Jacob Dahlgren

Willem Besselink (The Netherlands, b. 1980) produces visualisations of data, often harvested from his daily life, in doing so reflecting on the distinction between public and private, and between quantitative and qualitative information.

For the 'iCal' (2013) series Besselink kept track of his daily activities throughout 2012. For these 52 paintings His weekly actions were classified according to six colour-coded categories: green for making art; purple for paid work; red for at home or private; orange for leisure and socialising; yellow for sport; and blue for travelling. 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' (2013) presents a different set of data, the hours through each month that the artist woke up and went to sleep. As with 'iCal' 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.

Over the past twelve years **Jacob Dahlgren** (Sweden, b. 1970) has amassed a collection of over 1000 striped t-shirts, each one with a unique pattern and combination of colours. Each frame of the video piece 'Neoconcrete Space' (2012), is based on one of these patterns. Rather than seeing this collection as source material for his work, Dahlgren sees his daily wearing of the garments as an artwork in itself. Just as many of Dahlgren's works are made up of everyday objects, others escapes the gallery walls and becomes a part of his daily life.

The infinite variability of patterns and the nuanced resonances between colours is a subject which has fascinated artists for centuries. The same variety of patterns are taken up by clothing manufacturers as a means to release new and unique collections each year. The design of t-shirts contributes little to colour theory, while t-shirt wearers give little thought to the nature of the patterns they bear, but Dahlgren situates his works in a place where formal experimentation and vernacular culture collide.

Just as William Besselink produces works which measure and document his own life, Dahlgren's 'Unit of Measurements' (2011) is an artwork which measures itself. Made from 29 tape measures, the piece is installed from a set of predetermined measurements which determine where each tape should halt on its journey across the gallery wall. 'Unit of measurements' utilises tape measures, some locally sourced and others brought from overseas, not all of which were acquired with their owners consent.

Late Nights & Early Mornings is Kunstraum's summer program, a back-to-back relay race of five exhibitions running through till September. With each new opening one artist will swap places with the next. The exhibitions include: Willem Besselink and Jacob Dahlgren (12 July – 27 July), Jacob Dahlgren and Edward Clydesdale Thomson (1–22 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.

About Kunstraum:

Kunstraum is a London-based project space with a focus on solo exhibitions of artists based outside of the UK in London's neighbouring European cities. Kunstraum, literally meaning 'art room' in German, seeks to form new relationships with the interconnected art scenes of Europe and the rest of the UK.