

UPSTREAM
GALLERY

REHEARSING
THE FUTURE

26.03-
30.04.2016

NOOR

KLOVENIERSBURGWAL 95
1011 KB AMSTERDAM
THE NETHERLANDS

NUYTEN

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About the artist

Noor Nuyten (1986, NL) creates conceptual works that appeal strongly to the imagination of the viewer. Constructed systems such as time and the metric system often serve as a starting point. Leading Dutch newspaper De Volkskrant described her art as 'the kind of work that makes imaginary light bulbs appear above your head'. Nuyten is artistically akin to the movement of conceptual artists from the late 1960's, but at the same time her work is undeniably contemporary.

Upstream Gallery proudly presents the second solo exhibition by Noor Nuyten: *Rehearsing the Future*. With this exhibition, Nuyten provides new ways to engage in a critical but humorous relationship with rationally structured systems such as time, language and units of measurement. Starting from a conceptual basis, she seeks to create different scenarios that constantly question the influence of and interaction with such systems in our daily lives.

Nuyten's multimedia works are characterized by close collaborations with craftsmen, scientists and writers. Without any form of hierarchy, she brings together different occupations that use different ways of thinking.

Nuyten's exhibition at Upstream Gallery emphasizes the ephemeral experience of the works that is characteristic of her oeuvre. By playing with form, concept and structure, she explores new ways to put our relationship with rationally structured systems to the test. *Rehearsing the Future* not only provides a critical perspective, but also primarily an encouragement to create scenarios about the future.

Noor Nuyten lives and works in Amsterdam. She studied at the HISK in Gent (BE) and at the Academie Minerva (Groningen). Her conceptual works often provide new ways to engage in a critical but humorous relationship with rationally structured systems such as time, language and units of measurement. In 2013 she had her first solo exhibition at Upstream Gallery: The Palm at the End of the Mind. Her second solo exhibition took place in the spring of 2016: Rehearsing the Future. Nuyten's works are regularly included in exhibitions in the Netherlands and abroad. In the summer of 2013 she did a residency in GlogauAIR, Berlin and in 2015 she took part in a guest residency at the Rijksakademie in Amsterdam.

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Rehearsing the Future

The title of the exhibition refers to the eponymous work in which Nuyten researches the increasing extent to which language takes shape in the digital environment by using the Oculus Rift; a set of VR-glasses with a wide stereoscopic view, developed especially for gamers. Visitors are guided through a virtual space by means of moving textual instructions that constantly change direction and format. The slightly absurdist text reads about social structures and its prescribed scenarios, while creating a rhythmic choreographic spectacle for viewers standing outside the virtual space. By this, the work also brings together Nuyten's research on social and linguistic systems, of which she explores the impact on our actions through physical, virtual and imaginary modifications to everyday objects.

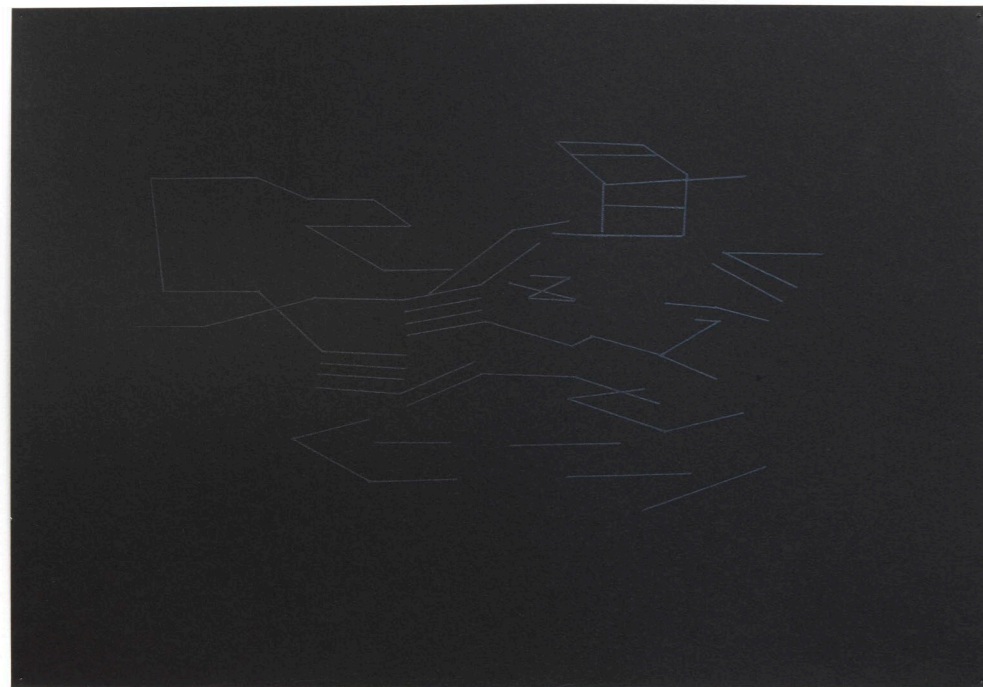


Rehearsing the Future, 2016
Text in virtual device, Oculus Rift, flat screen, vinyl floor
Edition of 3

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Choreographed Text Rehearsing the Future

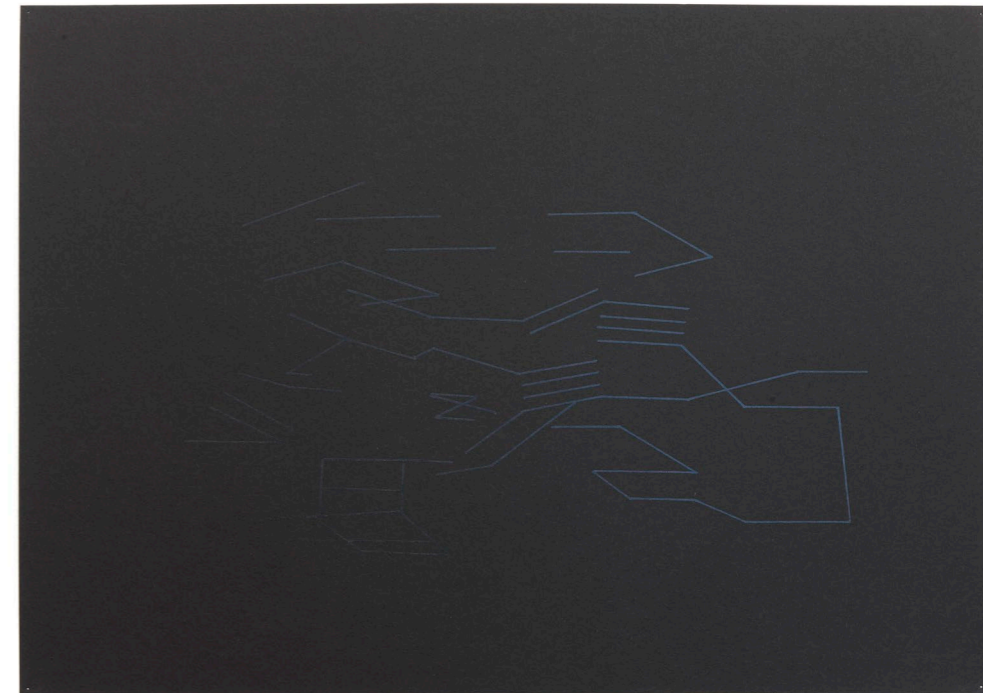
The choreography that arises from the Oculus Rift in *Rehearsing the Future* was carefully designed by Nuyten. Two sketches for this choreography are shown in these unique screen prints. By using a high gloss black ink on matt black paper, viewing the sketches creates a rhythmic choreography of its own.



Choreographed Text Rehearsing the Future, 2016
Screen print on paper, 30 x 42 cm
Unique work

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Choreographed Text Rehearsing the Future

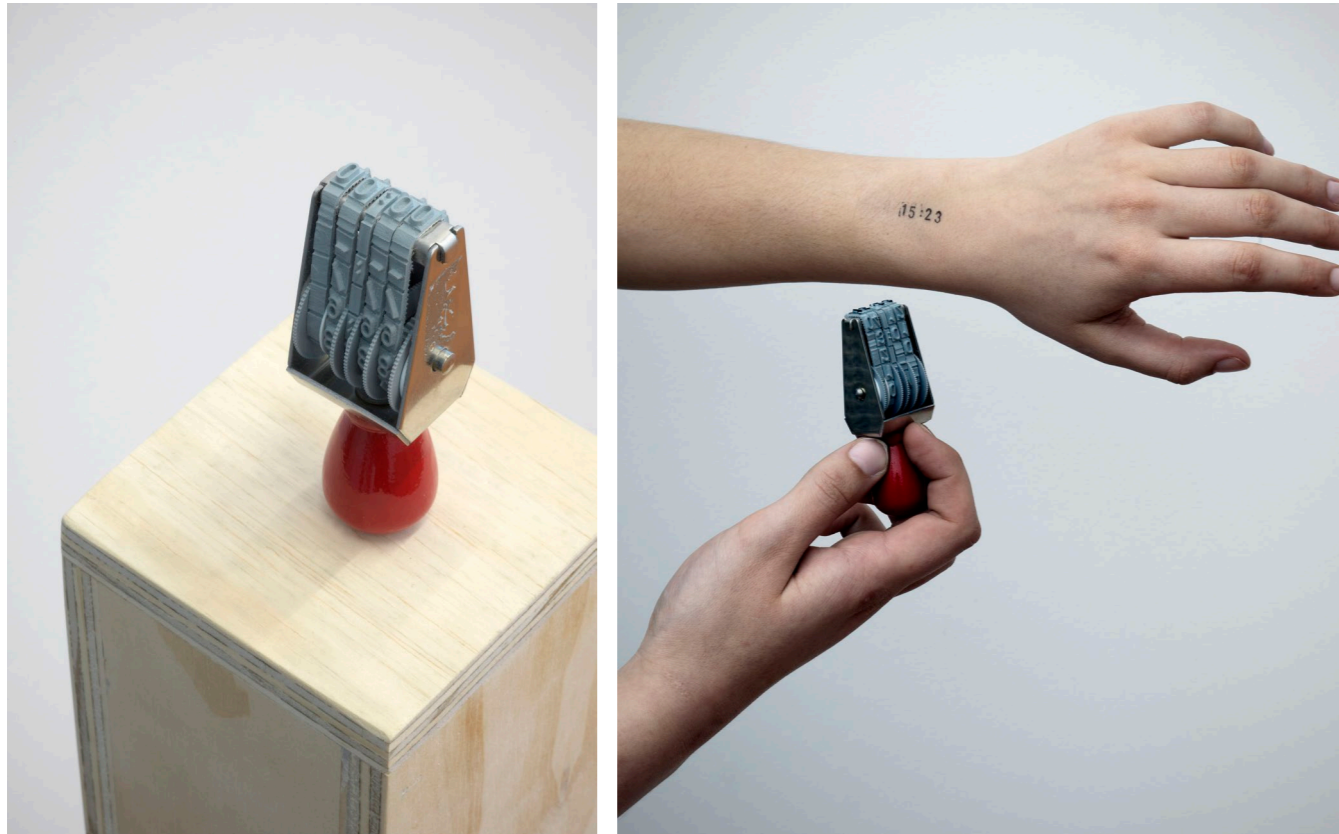


Choreographed Text Rehearsing the Future, 2016
Screen print on paper, 30 x 42 cm
Unique work

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Today's Schedule

With *Today's Schedule*, Nuyten calls upon the visitor, whom she includes in a new notion of time upon entering the gallery. Where one normally wears a watch, one now receives a stamp with the time of entry. Visitors then become part of an alternative perception of time: together they form a collective clock, where time stands still on their wrists, but goes on upon encountering other visitors.



Today's Schedule, 2013
Performance, skin-safe ink stamps, dimensions variable
Unique work

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The Future is Behind

After a thorough examination of cultures with a different perception of time, Nuyten developed shoes with a sole that is placed backwards in close collaboration with master shoemaker Nils Kalf. Some cultures have an experience of time that is opposite to ours: the past is in front of us and the future is behind. This is reflected for example in body language with gestures backward when talking about tomorrow. The exhibition includes three versions of this work. During the exhibition, visitors can fit the shoes to venture on an alternative physical experience of the Western regime of time. *The Future is Behind* consists of a series of unique shoes, that can also be made in any requested customized, personal model.



The Future is Behind (New Balance 574), 2016
Pair of wearable shoes, size 41,5, welded installation
Unique work

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The Future is Behind (Classic Lace Shoe), 2015
Pair of wearable shoes, size 43, welded installation
Unique work

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The Future is Behind (Penny Loafers), 2016
Pair of wearable shoes, size 39
Unique work

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The Future is Behind
self portraits



The Future is Behind, 2016
C-print, 19.5 x 27 cm
Unique work

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The Future is Behind
self portraits



The Future is Behind, 2016
C-print, 19.5 x 27 cm
Unique work

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Let's Meet at 3 o'Clock

Nuyten's work deals also with the impact that constructed systems have on our social behaviour. An example of a work in which the notion of time plays a major role is *Let's Meet at 3 O'Clock*. It consists of wristwatches that are manipulated, so that they run faster than the standard time. At first sight it is impossible to determine what exactly is wrong with the watches, although something is definitely off. Only after a while you start noticing that the minutes expire faster on the watch, an alienating experience. When two or more people wear these watches, they form a kind of secret alliance: they share a private time-lapse from which others are excluded. This allows them to meet at a certain moment in time, for example the 3 o'clock from the title, while it is not possible for others to find out when this moment takes place in general time. Because of the omnipresence of cell phones, the watch lost its main function of measuring time and merely exists as a status symbol. With *Lets Meet at 3 O'Clock*, Nuyten plays with this loss of function while proposing a suggestion for a new use.

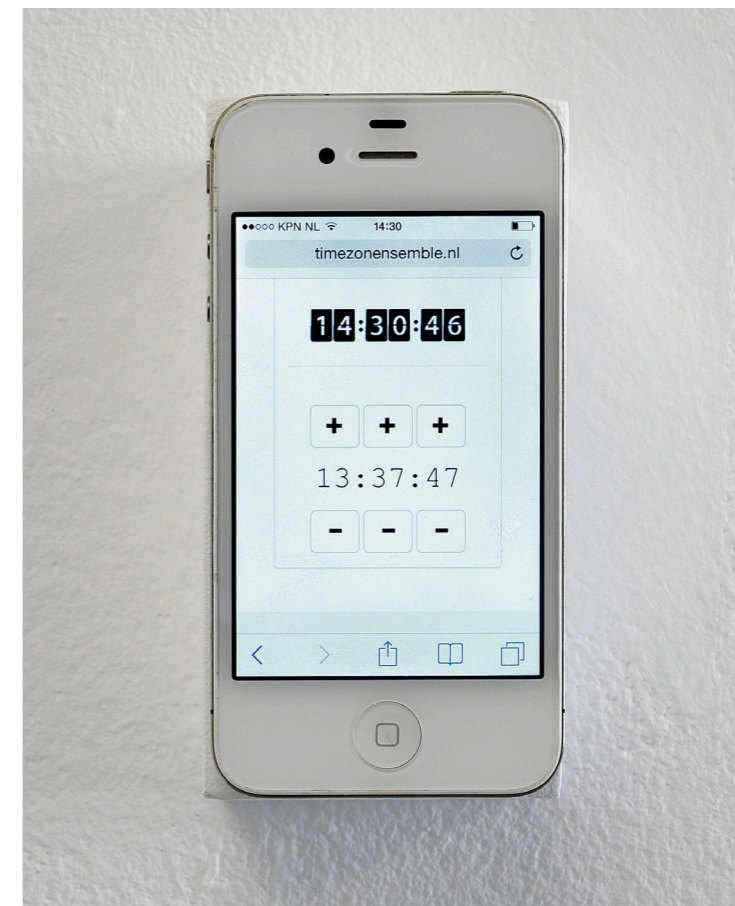


Let's Meet at 3 o'Clock, 2013
Watch
Edition 5 of 10

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Timezone Ensemble

Timezone Ensemble is a multiplayer game in which players battle over time. Each player is challenged to manipulate the 'collective time' to match their local time.



Timezone Ensemble, 2014
App (concept)
Unique work

(game version available through *AppStore* and *Google Play*)

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Two Meters

Two Meters was inspired by Ken Alders' book *Measure of All Things* (2003) about the original prototype of the meter, the blueprint for all of our measuring instruments. The work consists of two measuring tapes of exactly one meter, cut into pieces of 1 cm and placed in piles. Although the two stacks represent exactly the same unit, they differ in height because the tapes are made of different materials.



Two Meters, 2009
Mixed media
5.5 x 2 x 1 cm, 4 x 2 x 1 cm
Edition 2 of 3

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Exhibition in Your Hand

Exhibition in Your Hand is an auditory work in which a voice-over describes an exhibition that takes place in your hand. This way, visitors are experiencing an exhibition by means of imagination. The description pauses from time to time, building up a relationship between the artist/narrator and the visitor. *Exhibition in Your Hand* contains existing works by Nuyten herself as well as work by other artists.

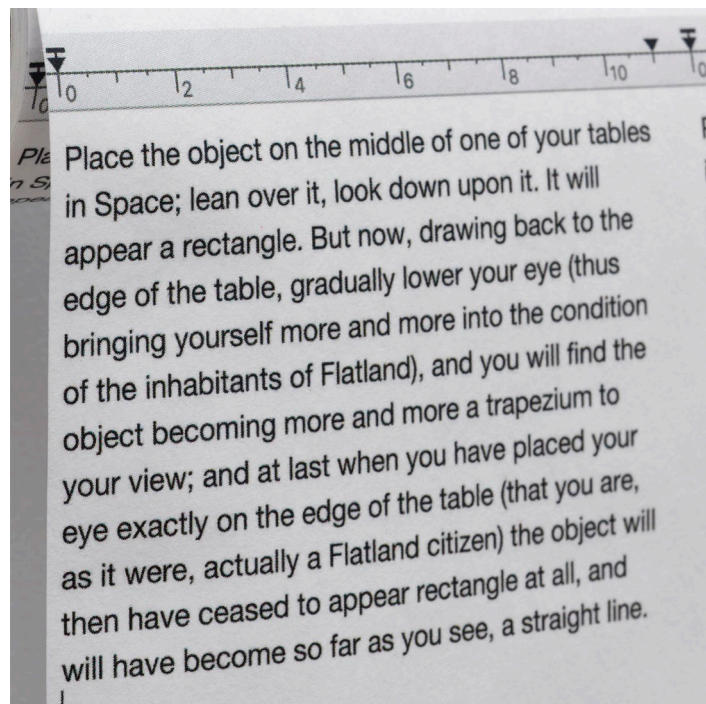


Exhibition in Your Hand II, 2013
Sound clip, printed text, wooden installation with lamp
Edition 2 of 3

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Wrapping Paper

This work is inspired on the book *Flatland: a Romance of Many Dimensions (1884)*, a satirical novella by Edward Abbott Abbott. The book used the fictional two-dimensional world of Flatland to comment on the hierarchy of Victorian culture, but the novella's more enduring contribution is its examination of dimensions. In the novel, the inhabitants of Flatland are geometric figures that live in a two-dimensional world. With *Wrapping Paper*, Nuyten experiments further with the notion of dimensions. When used for wrapping, the tridimensional package becomes two-dimensional when following the instructions in the text.



Wrapping Paper, 2016
Offset print on paper, 47.5 x 400 cm
Unique work

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Measured Through a Window a Building is 3 MM

In this work, Nuyten again questions the value of units of measurement and plays with them in a smart and humorous way, by measuring several objects through a window and registering them in a handmade notebook.

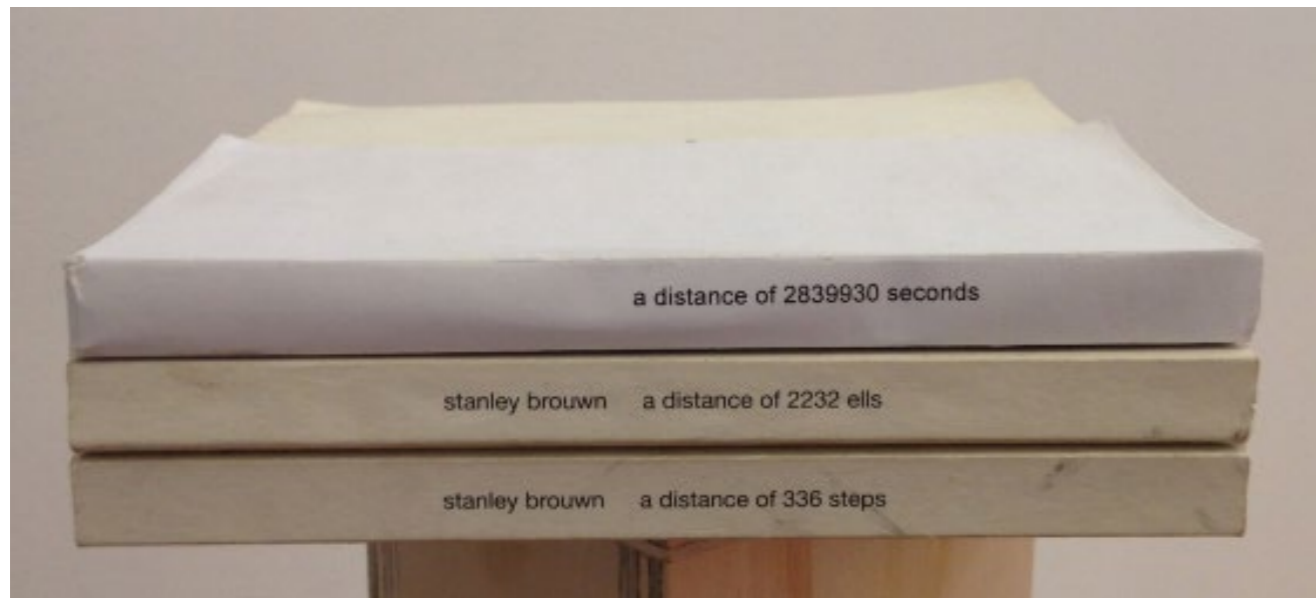


Measured Through a Window a Building is 3 mm, 2016
Handmade book, 27 x 15 cm
Unique work

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A Distance of 2839930 seconds

Conceptual artist Stanley Brouwn focused his artistic research, like Nuyten, on distance and measurements. This resulted in projects in which distances were counted and measured with extreme precision. These distances were inventoried in artist books. With *A Distance of 2839930 seconds*, Nuyten brings an ode to Brouwn by adding a paper cover to one of his books with which she adds the measuring-unit of time to the units used by Brouwn.



A Distance of 2839930 seconds, 2010
Paper cover on three artist books by Stanley Brouwn
Unique work

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Watch

This digital watch without a mechanism examines, like *Let's Meet at 3 o'Clock*, our notion of time and how this effects our social behaviour. With this work Nuyten examines how the watch can be only an accessory by getting rid of it's original function and the way this effects our behaviour.



Watch.2016
Digital watch without a mechanism
Edition 1 of 10

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Still Life With One Minute



Still Life with One Minute, 2016
Bent hourglass
Edition 1 of 3