Moving Images - Static Spaces: Architectures, Art, Media, Film, Digital Art and Design

• Paper / Proposal Title:
The Uncertainty of a Moving Diptych

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• Presentation Method. I would like to:
  i. present in person (with a written paper)

• Abstract (300 words):
This paper reflects on a video installation presented at the Flemish Architectural Institute in December 2017 as part of the exhibition ‘Drawing Ambience, Alvin Boyarsky and the Architecture Association’. The installation portrays a drawing of a cranial figure subjected to consecutive moments of subtraction as it negotiates a relationship with an etching by Alexander Brodsky in which a male figure holds a building. This particular installation forms part of an ongoing research by Architecture Project with which alternative strategies are explored to algebraic architecture; a discourse in which architectures are established as the constitution of parts. This research, titled ‘Monolith Drawing’ has been situated within the maelstrom of ancient and current day architecture to explore and (re)deploy the idea of ‘ex uno lapide’ (1) in the production of current day architecture. The extraction of an architectural figure from a single volume as opposed to constructing architecture by means of various components is a measure to question architectural production. The video installation, as shown at the Flemish Architectural Institute, permits a viewing of a
coming-into-being of an architectural figure; unstable by nature, for the drawing is both static (as a matter of fact) and subject to the idea of speed. Fluctuations of the pictorial surface allow for the drawing to perpetually reconstitute its (re)presentational status as it speaks of consecutive moments of transformation. The resulting diptych, fluctuating between appearance and disappearance wants to resist the depiction of a constitutional reality. Instead, the diptych holds a perpetual uncertainty as it seeks to combine perception with transformation, past with present, architecture with organic unity.

(1) A favorite topos of classical literature the principle of ‘ex uno lapide’ first appears in Albert’s treatise on sculpture. His writing develops observations by Diodorus Siculus on the proportion system of Egyptian sculptors.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Dr. Ephraim Joris is a Director at the international architecture practice ‘Architecture Project’ and a faculty member at KU Leuven University and Piet Zwart Instituut. He combines practice and research to examine the idea of an architectural phenomenology recasting history as the experiential content of contemporary architecture. He completed numerous projects combining restoration and reorientation of historic sites. He has published numerous articles and gives lectures at conferences worldwide. He has been lecturing at numerous universities such as RMIT University, Syracuse University, Westminster University, Brighton University, KU Leuven and Willem de Kooning Academy.