

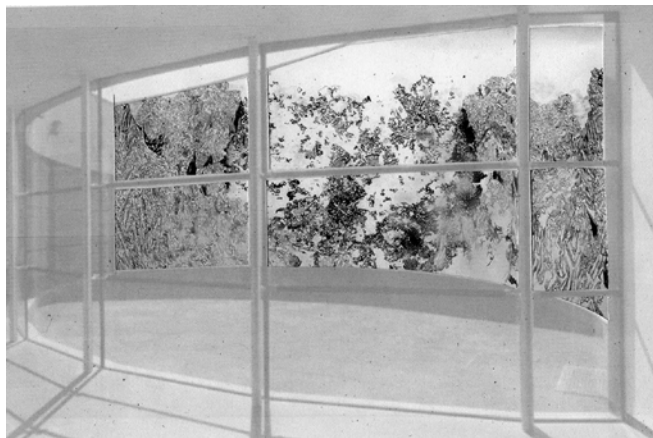
Gam Bodenhausen realises monumental drawing in Het Oog of the Van Abbemuseum

Graphite Knots, 07.05 – 16.09.2018

From 7 May to 16 September 2018, Eindhoven artist Gam Bodenhausen realises her new installation *Graphite Knots* in Het Oog (The Eye), a patio in the Van Abbemuseum. Over a period of five months, Bodenhausen will make a huge drawing on the monumental back wall of Het Oog, examining the basic material of the drawing: graphite. Inspired by encounters during her travels she explores the history and the future of the pencil. The process will be documented in a series of display cases which will be placed in the corridor in front of Het Oog.

Graphite mines in Grey Knotts

Graphite consists entirely of carbon, one of the basic building materials of all life. The material was discovered five centuries ago, in Grey Knotts, situated in the English Lake District, which then led to one of the oldest graphite mines in the world. The origin of this most basic raw material for drawing is therefore found in one of the oldest nature reserves in Europe, which is also the home base for the English Romantic movement. In this movement observing and drawing became an intellectual adventure with its own rules and possibilities. Bodenhausen's starting point is the idea that a drawing not only describes, but also generates new insights.



Gam Bodenhausen, sketch for *Graphite Knots*

The past and future of graphite

As a discoverer, Bodenhausen uses Het Oog as her research station. During the project she will make a trip to the "Grey Knotts" mountains in the Lake District, where she will visit an old pencil factory and the dark corridors of the graphite mines. For her installation in Het Oog, she will use film images, photographs and found objects from her research trip.

For the exhibition a number of special graphite stones from the collection of the Naturalis Biodiversity Centre in Leiden have been brought to the Van Abbemuseum.

Bodenhausen will also welcome different guests in Het Oog. She wants to explore the future by talking to scientists from the Technical University of Eindhoven who carry out research into graphite as a new conductor for which they have great expectations. From graphite as a flexible medium for expressing visual ideas, to graphite as a futurist conductor of energy; this is the bandwidth which Bodenhausen hopes to explore in Het Oog.

The whole process will result in a monumental drawing on the wall and a series of drawings and other materials presented in the area and display cases in front of Het Oog. These drawings will then form the basis for a new publication created in the Charles Nijpels Lab of the Jan van Eyck Academy in Maastricht.



Gam Bodenhausen. Photo: Marcel de Buck

Gam Bodenhausen

Gam Bodenhausen, an artist from Eindhoven, creates drawings and installations. In her work historical and geological elements from the landscape and nature play an important role. Bodenhausen studied at the Gerrit Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam and continued her training at the Jan van Eyck Academy in Maastricht. In 2016 she published her first book, *Grey Horizontals*, published by Lecturis. This book is based on a series of pale grey pencil drawings which were done after she had returned to the marshy area of her youth.

Het Oog

Het Oog is an oval shaped outdoor space in the Van Abbemuseum. Het Oog (The Eye) is an oval shaped outdoor space in the Van Abbemuseum. It serves as a platform which is made available for several months to the artist who is selected. The public has the opportunity to see a work of art being created, and can be introduced to the artist.

Press release
April 2018

Subsidisers

The programming of Het Oog is supported by Stichting Niemeijer Fonds.



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For the editors:
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Van Abbemuseum
The Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven is one of the leading museums for contemporary art in Europe. The museum has an intensive international collection of more than 2,700 works of art, including key works by Lissitzky, Picasso, Kokoschka, Chagall, Beuys, McCarthy, Daniëls and Körmeling. Questions in the field of art and society are raised by the museum in an experimental way. An open attitude, hospitality and the exchange of information are important for the Van Abbemuseum and we encourage both ourselves and the visitors to think about different subjects, for example about the role of the collection as a cultural "memory" or about the museum as a public space. As a result of international cooperation and exchange, the Van Abbemuseum is also a place where cultural cross-pollination takes place. It is a source of wonder, inspiration and imagination.

Van Abbemuseum,
Bilderdijkstraan 10, Eindhoven.
www.vanabbemuseum.nl

Opening hours
Tuesday to Sunday 11.00 – 17.00. 1stThursday of the month 11.00 - 21.00.

Admission
Adults: € 12.00 / Groups of 10 or more: € 9.00 / Young people 13-18 years old, students, CJP holders, Eindhoven city pass (stadspas) holders: € 6.00/ Children under 13 years of age, Museum card: free. Tuesday 15.00 – 17.00: free.