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**Solo exhibition Guido van der Werve
April 6 – May 7, 2016**

With his new works, Guido van der Werve (1977) takes us on a contemplative journey. With *Nummer zestien, the present moment* and *Nummer zeventien, killing time attempt one: from the deepest ocean to the highest mountain*, Van der Werve further expands the series of numbered films he began in 2003.

Nummer zestien, the present moment (2016) will be presented in the Oude Kerk during the first week of Van der Werve's solo exhibition at Galerie Juliette Jongma. The three-channel HD video-installation is accompanied by a player piano that emanates a classical composition written by the artist. In *Nummer zestien*, Guido van der Werve reflects on the current individualism of our society and the transience of life. Projected are three groups of people (on different screens) performing ordinary activities in a space with an all-black backdrop, which is reminiscent of a black box. The piece consists of twelve acts, of which each beginning is marked by a starry sky showing the astrological signs of the zodiac in their respective order. On the first screen, older men and women are sitting or walking, eating or drinking, their bare skin exposing them in all their fragility. Wearing black clothes, the people meditating on the second screen almost dissolve into the background. They seem not to be seeking for inner peace or balance, states of being that are so often lost in our daily lives. On the last screen attractive young couples are scattered around the room, laying on the floor, stripped of clothing. Cuddling in the first few acts, but getting more and more intimate while the work proceeds, to the point that causes a sense of unease in the viewer. Although the performative language of the work is still recognisable, the confronting manner in which Van der Werve reflects on existential themes in *Nummer zestien* is distinctive.

Existential themes are also addressed in *Nummer zeventien, killing time attempt one: from the deepest ocean to the highest mountain*, he is in a completely different way. In this two-channel work Van der Werve emulates climbing to the top of the highest mountain, the Mount Everest (mt. 8848), and descending into the deepest ocean (abyss 11040). However, the long shots are taken in domestic environment, the two channels respectively showing the artist continuously jumping on a bed and walking in a filled bathtub. Unlike the great physical demands the artist made upon himself in previous works – such as *Nummer veertien, home* and *Nummer dertien, Effugio c, You're always only half a day away* – the psychological aspect of physical exertion is central in this work. The perpetual repetition of useless acts and the boredom we read from Van der Werve's face addresses questions about time and space. The ordinariness of the domestic space is comforting and discomforting at the same time, and the tension caused by this gives the work an almost absurdist quality. By challenging ordinary human behaviour in his own typical creative language, Van der Werve redefines the essence of our daily life.

Exhibition at Galerie Juliette Jongma
Open Wednesday – Saturday, 1 – 6 pm and by appointment.

Viewing of *Nummer zestien, the present moment* at the Oude Kerk, on:
April 4 & 5: 8.00 pm –
April 7 & 8: 8.00 pm and 9.15 pm

For further information, please contact info@juliettejongma.com.

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