

Technology as an Organism

Christiane Bosman

Rory Pilgrim is in the Amsterdamse Bos preparing for his performance on July 15, a part of his installation *Software Garden*. Over the past 8 years Pilgrim has developed a practice based upon concepts of emancipation, through which personal and political questions are brought together to voice what we believe in and strive to change. Integral to this practice is the use of speech, movement, and musical composition. Together they create a collective voice that expresses individual and shared perspectives. Heavily influenced by the origins of activist, feminist, and socially engaged art that emerged during the 60's, Rory is interested in questions of how we can create change in a time of ubiquitous knowledge, information, and connectivity.

Rory is geïnteresseerd in de vragen over hoe we verandering kunnen scheppen in tijden van alomtegenwoordige kennis, informatie en verbondenheid.

Words such as 'Peace', 'Freedom' and even 'Love' were once vital driving forces for radical movements. How can



image by Viku Ushkanova

words and language still have radical potential? Rory explores this by engaging a broad range of people and drawing upon his personal background and experiences.

Software Garden in Cure Park has been growing since the summer of 2016. Functioning as a space for different collaborations, *Software Garden* brings together different phases and bodies. One of the protagonists of this project is poet Carol

R. Kallend. Kallend suffers from many physical ailments; she has trouble walking, breathing, as well as psychological complications. In her poetry, she expresses her longing for a robot that can fulfill her needs. The humiliation and dependency she feels through the mercy of others increases her desire for technology that can help her feel independent and human.

De vernedering en afhankelijkheid die ze voelt in de compassie van anderen vergroot haar verlangen naar technologie die haar weer onafhankelijk en menselijk kan laten voelen.

Carol passed away just a few weeks ago. Knowing this charges the words erase erase erase in *Software Garden*, and its repetition, with even greater urgency. It refers to everything that we have lost, and are losing, along the way – on a macro and micro level: social welfare systems that are being demolished, feelings of solidarity that are falling apart, people that are gone. Still Rory Pilgrim is not pessimistic, he desires for a world wherein people can unite and connect, where bodies and people come together. Places where older and younger generations can touch and feel one another. To connect and shift. Technology is bringing people together but increasingly in homogeneous groups, which further splits society. Larger events like Brexit are the result of this. Differences between old and young, rural and metropolitan, create these shifts.

"We need spaces where people can come, meet and have fun. Where we can release our energies."

We hebben ruimtes nodig waar mensen naar toe komen, elkaar ontmoeten en lol kunnen hebben. Waar we onze energie kwijt kunnen.

Rory has never presented his work in a forest. He feels that the relation between the Dutch and their landscape is unique. As all Dutch nature is planned and artificially constructed, nature becomes a sort of technology. Rory does not consider technology and nature as two opposed worlds.

Rory ziet technologie en natuur niet als twee tegenovergestelde werelden.

Rather, he sees the two as organisms, as programs built on a set – a system. His aim is to harmonize the two. He envisions a future ideology where technology allows us to be outside more.

In zijn toekomstvisie maakt technologie het mogelijk om meer buiten te zijn.

The Lone Dreg

Speaks Back

by Carol R. Kallend

I am not a dreg of society

I am a loved and wanted person

I am not a dependent person

I am an interdependent person

I am a skilled poet

I am not a heterosexual woman

I am a skilled survivor in today's times

(written at 3am)



image by Viku Ushkanova

how do we break from

Shame Humiliation Censorship Some thoughts

The Future Publishing and Printing

It has been said that Western society is based on some sort of relation to shame. We don't think about it all too much, but if it is a basis of our society as a whole, we should. It probably permeates through much of our everyday.

Thinking back on this past week of programming in Cure Park, this issue has started to bubble up. Not in its negative form, but rather as a need to "empower," or the need to shed vested presumptions. The images of wellbeing, or types of wellbeing, as well as types of not being well are roots of shame and humiliation. These images are censored. We are not confronted by them on a daily, weekly or even monthly basis.

It seems that we socially do not know (anymore) how to deal with the specificity of our fleshy selves. Do we find it too confrontational?

in our conception of wellbeing?