

Althuis Hofland Fine Arts

Mono/ Butsu

Rumiko Hagiwara

1 June - 6 July 2019, The Gemma

'Mono/ Butsu' is a new sound installation by Rumiko Hagiwara based on a Japanese Character that found its origin in China, meaning "object" however by its travel through time and borders new connotations were added to the character. Within the installation Hagiwara reads out loud its multiple interpretations, varying from "something" to "nothing". The work of Rumiko Hagiwara focuses on the subtle and ordinary things from our daily life. The artist's minimal interventions do not add, but rather address and point out the memories that space or language contains as a result of human action and behaviour, or how migration of the body or the object/ word from its original context often leads to misunderstandings. Nevertheless simultaneously these renewed readings give glance to the ordinary, and highlight the poetry of the traces of daily life.

Alongside 'Mono/ Butsu' the artist also shows the outdoor intervention "Weed", containing a Wikipedia text on a Hortus-like plate about 'Weed' installed next to bits of weed in between the tiles in front of the gallery. Described as 'A plant in the wrong place'; unintentionally poetic and metaphoric for the right wing rhetoric of these times. Nothing, becoming something.

Rumiko Hagiwara (1979) was born in Tomioka (Japan) and studied at the Tokyo Zokei University in Tokyo (2000-2004). She was an artist in residence at the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten in Amsterdam (2008-2009), Air Berlin Alexanderplatz, Berlin, DE (2017) a.o. Recent exhibitions include a.o. 'Never walk alone #3' Cultuurcentrum Strombeek, Grimbergen, BE (2018) ; Unexpected Encounter, Arts Maebashi Museum, JA (2018); 'Made in Japan' Cultuurcentrum Strombeek, Grimbergen, BE (2016); 'In praise of laziness' (collaboration with Mounira Al Solh) W8, Film screening, Amsterdam, NL (2016); 'Capitalist Melancholica' HALL14/Center for Contemporary Art, Leipzig, DE (2016). Rumiko Hagiwara and Jeanine Hofland have been collaborating since 2011, and composed a book together in 2017-18; entitled '111 copies of A4 paper, and other titles by Rumiko Hagiwara', a book that solely highlights the artist's titles as an instruction to look at the world through the eyes of Rumiko Hagiwara. The book is available in the gallery.