

STEDELIJK STATEMENTS PATRICIA PISTERS:



Date: November 3, 2017
Time: 6.45–9.30 PM
Location: Museum entrance hall, Teijin Auditorium, and Audi Gallery 0.1.
Language: English

Worlding the Brain is the fourth edition of Stedelijk Statements, a program series in which a scholar, artist, critic, or cultural entrepreneur composes an evening of events at the museum. These evenings present new research and both artistic and academic projects in the form of lectures, debates, performances, and temporary installations. In this edition, Professor of Film Patricia Pisters (Media Studies, University of Amsterdam) shows how art translates subjective experiences that take place in our brain.

STATEMENT

“This evening I want to take visitors of the Stedelijk Museum on a “journey through the brain” where art, neuroscience, and philosophy meet. Objective and subjective insights about the brain act as “trusted strangers” to create a synergetic understanding of the brain. This Stedelijk Statement is connected to a conference at the University of Amsterdam entitled “Worlding the Brain: Affect, Care, Engagement” where we propose to take the brain out of the scientific lab and put it back into the chaotic rich complexity of the world by exchanging findings, observations, and thoughts about the emotions and care for our synaptic processes and mental (dis)orders.”
– Patricia Pisters

BIOGRAPHY

Patricia Pisters is professor of film in the Department of Media Studies of the University of Amsterdam and director of the Amsterdam School of Cultural Analysis (ASCA). She teaches film-philosophy and writes about the role of film and media with respect to (collective) consciousness, among others, in the book *The Neuro-Image* (2012). Her book *Filming for the Future* won the Louis Hartlooper Prize for Best Film Publication 2016. Currently, she is working on a book project about cinema, madness, and the psychopathologies of contemporary media culture; and on a multimedia project about the filmmaker as metallurgist and alchemist of our times.



PROGRAM

- 6.45 DOORS OPEN — PROGRAM STARTS IN THE TEIJIN AUDITORIUM
- 7.00 WELCOME — BY PATRICIA PISTERS & PHI, SHORT FILM BY GUILLAUME DUMAS
Phi is a short film by Guillaume Dumas. Dumas is a research fellow of the Human Genetics and Cognitive Functions Laboratory in the Institut Pasteur, and an affiliate member of the Human Brain and Behavior Laboratory in the Center for Complex Systems and Brain Sciences of Florida Atlantic University.
- 7.15 TALK — *TRUSTED STRANGERS / NEW AMSTERDAM PARK (NAP)* BY RAAAF AND RESPONSE BY PHILOSOPHER ALVA NOË
Trusted Strangers / New Amsterdam Park (NAP) is an architectural art project for a new landscape in the form of a temporary floating park, designed by RAAAF. Professor of Philosophy Alva Noë, known for his outspoken ideas about the relationship between the arts and sciences, will respond to the project.
- 7.40 TALK — *EMOTIONS GO TO WORK* BY ARTIST ZOE BELOFF
Zoe Beloff is an artist working with a wide range of media including film, installation, and drawing. She will discuss her recent installation work, in which she investigates how our emotions and feelings have been turned into commodities and instrumentalized by global corporations.
- 8.00 COLUMN — *THE STRANDS THAT MAKE THE SELF*, BY WRITER AND LITERARY SCHOLAR JASON TOUGAW
Jason Tougaw will read from his memoir, *The One You Get: Portrait of a Family Organism* (winner of the Dzanc Nonfiction Prize). About a boy's life, down to the cellular level, peppered with rumination on everything from dream theory to neuroscience, acid babies and punk rock. His book *The Elusive Brain: Literary Experiments in the Age of Neuroscience* is forthcoming from Yale University Press in the spring. He teaches at Queens College and the CUNY Graduate Center.
- 8.15 BREAK — IMAGES BY THE ART OF NEUROSCIENCE
(ON DISPLAY IN THE MUSEUM THROUGHOUT THE EVENING)
To stimulate crossover between neuroscience and art, The Art of Neuroscience initiated a competition for inspiring and provocative imagery created in neuroscience labs, inviting both scientists and artists to submit visual work inspired by the brain.
- 8.30 VIDEO & INSTALLATIONS — *EEG KISS II (N.I.R.S)* BY LANCEL & MAAT; *IF YOU ARE NOT THERE, WHERE ARE YOU?* BY MAARTJE NEVEJAN; *FUTURE EMOJI AND THE COGNITIVE ERA* BY ZOE BELOFF
(ALL ON DISPLAY IN THE MUSEUM THROUGHOUT THE EVENING)
EEG Kiss II (N.I.R.S) is a performance installation that investigates current experiences of affect, empathy, and social proximity shaped by technologies. With wireless E.E.G. headsets, visitors are invited to participate as kissers, voyeurs, and data scanners. As a result, the installation investigates how a kiss can be translated into neurofeedback data.

If You Are Not There, Where Are You? is a virtual reality game by Maartje Nevejan in collaboration with Monobanda about the often misunderstood and frightening experience that children have during an epileptic seizure. Through the imagination of children's stories about their multi-sensory experience, Nevejan creates a new visual language based on their epileptic seizures.

Future Emoji and The Cognitive Era are two videos by artist Zoe Beloff that are part of the larger installation *Emotions Go To Work*. Beloff gives a talk about this project at 7.40.
- 9.15 COLUMN — *MENTAL MUSIC* BY PSYCHIATRIST AND VIOLINIST ESTHER VAN FENEMA AND MUSICIAN FLOOR BRAAM
Mental Music is a column by Esther van Fenema who has a double career as psychiatrist and musician. She will present her column with violinist Floor Braam and together they will explore the relationship between the brain, music, performance, and psychiatry.
- 9.30 END — CLOSING WORDS AND IMAGES