

GUIDO VAN DER WERVE

MARCH 22 – MAY 4, 2019

Two solo exhibitions in Amsterdam

Opening: Friday March 22nd from 5-8 pm at Keizersgracht 241

KEIZERSGRACHT 241

Stills

FRANS HALSSTRAAT 26

Nummer veertien, home (2012) | *Nummer zeventien, killing time attempt 1: from the deepest ocean to the highest mountain* (2015)



Guido van der Werve | *Nummer veertien, home* | 2012

GRIMM is proud to announce its inaugural solo exhibition with newly represented artist Guido van der Werve (1977, Papendrecht, NL), on view at both Amsterdam gallery spaces.

Van der Werve is a filmmaker, musician and visual artist. He is best-known for his video-documented performances in which he pushes his own body to its limits through acts of endurance. Van der Werve has composed his own music since 2007. At present, Van Der Werve's oeuvre comprises fifteen elaborate video works and two publications, all of which are numbered in Dutch and subtitled in English. At the time of this exhibition, the artist is currently working on his first full-length feature film, due for completion in 2020. The gallery exhibits two recent videos in addition to a selection of stills from earlier video performances.

In *Nummer veertien, Home* (2012) Van der Werve follows the journey of his idol Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849). The initial goal of delivering a cup of Polish soil to the composer's grave at Père-Lachaise in Paris developed into an incredible athletic performance equivalent to a 1500 kilometer triathlon. The artist swam, biked and ran from the Church of the Holy Cross in Warsaw to Paris, spanning the distance between Chopin's formal grave and the resting place of his actual heart. Van der Werve's quest is intertwined with the journey of Alexander the Great (356 BC – 323

BC), who, like Chopin, also died on foreign soil. Van der Werve transforms romantic historical references into modern-day epics and pressing philosophical questions into sublime experiences.

His latest work *Nummer zeventien, killing time attempt 1: from the deepest ocean to the highest mountain* (2015) is a two-channel video installation showing Van der Werve in 10-hour performances in which he references two extreme sporting achievements: the climbing of Mount Everest with its peak at 8,848 meters, and the manned descent into the Atlantic Ocean's Mariana Trench with its deepest point at 11,040 meters. In contrasting these two victories with the domestic setting of both his bathtub and bed, Van der Werve alters these spectacular accomplishments into normalities. Taking these ultimate acts of endurance and transposing them into everyday life confronts the viewer with the feeling that a noteworthy task has been accomplished.

The various stills on show at the Keizersgracht gallery consist of photographs taken from one-off performances by the artist in addition to stills taken from video works. These works will rotate during the run of the exhibition to highlight this lesser-known body of work by the artist.

not for publication

For more information, interview and royalty free image requests, please contact the gallery manager Jorien de Vries: press@grimmgallery.com +31 (0)20 6752465

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About the artist

Guido van der Werve was born in 1977 in Papendrecht (NL). He lives and works in Berlin (DE), Amsterdam (NL) and Hassi (FI). Van der Werve has studied Industrial Design at Delft University of Technology (NL); Classical Archaeology at the University of Amsterdam (NL); Audiovisual Arts at the Gerrit Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam (NL); Russian language, culture and literature at the University of Amsterdam (NL); graduated from the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten in Amsterdam (NL); participated in the International Studio & Curatorial Program (ISCP) in New York, NY (US) and was a resident at Kunstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin (DE).

Van der Werve was awarded several international awards, among others the 2013 Grand Prix (Gouden Kalf) for Best Short Film at the Dutch Film Festival in Utrecht (NL); the 2010 Prix International d'Art Contemporain, Fondation Prince Pierre de Monaco (MC); the 2009 Grant to Artists of the Foundation for Contemporary Arts, New York, NY (US) and the 2007 Volkskrant Beeldende Kunst Prijs (NL).

His work can be found in the collections of international museums and institutions, such as the Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY (US); Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (NL); Sammlung Goetz, Munich (DE); The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC (US); Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam (NL); Museum Voorlinden, Wassenaar (NL); Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX (US); Zabłudowicz Collection, London (UK); Galleria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Turin (IT) among many others.

Guido van der Werve's work is currently included in the exhibition *Freedom*, curated by Hans Den Hartog Jager, at museum De Fundatie, Zwolle (NL). Selected museum exhibitions include the Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY (US); Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, Amsterdam (NL); Kunsthalle Basel, Basel (CH); Tel Aviv Art Museum, Tel Aviv (IL); the Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA (US); Kyoto City University of Arts Art Gallery, Kyoto (JP); Museum of Contemporary Art Taipei, Taipei (TW); Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk (DK) and the High Line, New York, NY (US).

Forthcoming exhibitions include: Guido van der Werve at Fluentum, Berlin (DE), with a performance on April 28th, 2019 of *Nummer elf, chess Piano concert in three movements* (during Berlin Art Weekend) and a presentation at CONDO, São Paulo (BR) opening March 30th, 2019 where the artist presents *Nummer twee, just because I'm standing here doesn't mean I want to* (2003); *Nummer drie, take step fall* (2004) and *Nummer vier, I don't want to get involved in this. I don't want to be part of this. Talk me out of it* (2005).

In addition to GRIMM, the artist is represented by Luhring Augustine in New York (US) and Brooklyn (US) and by Monitor in Rome (IT) and Lisbon (PT).



Guido van der Werve | *I smile at the world and the world smiles back* | 2001

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