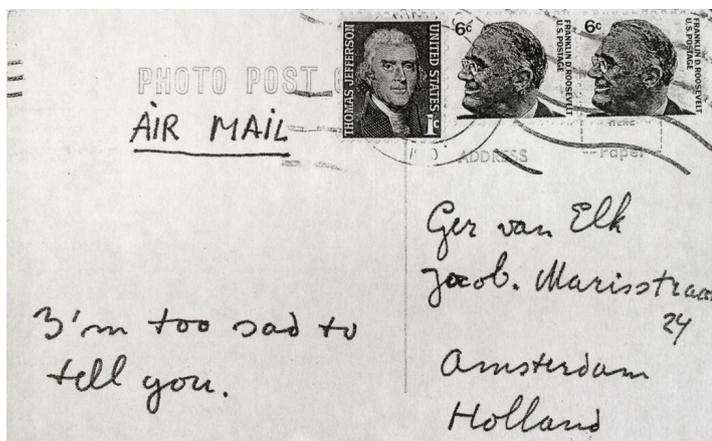


In Search Of...

GER VAN ELK & BAS JAN ADER



Postcard from Bas Jan Ader to Ger van Elk

GRIMM is proud to announce a duo exhibition with an important selection of historical works across various media by Ger van Elk and Bas Jan Ader.

The exhibition runs from August 28 until October 03, 2015 and opens on Friday August 28 from 5 pm till 8 pm at GRIMM, Frans Halsstraat 26 in Amsterdam.

Both artists made a significant and highly personal contribution to the development of Conceptual Art. The exhibition focuses on a number of iconic works made in the early 1970s in Los Angeles and Amsterdam, where both Bas Jan Ader and Ger van Elk were working at the time, and aims to show how they influenced each other and furthered each others practices going forward.

Working on common ground with an overlapping sensibility towards a self-conscious play on art history and investigating the construction of representation, Ader and Van Elk have been a major influence on their contemporaries, but also on many artists working today. They have played a key role in the development of conceptual art internationally.

The exhibition includes well known works by Bas Jan Ader, such as *I'm too sad to tell you* and the installation *Please don't leave me* and will also show various unique studies and vintage photographs.

Ger van Elk's iconic 16mm film works as well as an installation and various vintage photographs are included, such as the *Co-founder of the word O.K.* and *Little man behind the door.*

Ger van Elk (1941 - 2014)

After studying at the Institute for Applied Arts from 1959 to 1961 in Amsterdam, Ger van Elk moved to Los Angeles in 1961, where his father was working at the time. He attended the Immaculate Heart College, where his long time friend Bas Jan Ader joined him the following year. Ger van Elk's work from that period, across a wide range of mediums, often draws humorous parallels between Amsterdam and Los Angeles. Ger van Elk's work had been exhibited in numerous international museum and gallery exhibition such as **MoMa**, New York, the **Stedelijk Museum**, Amsterdam and **Marian Goodman Gallery**, New York. Recent exhibitions include **La Casa Encendida**, Madrid, **The Kröller-Müller Museum**, Otterlo and the **Art Institute of Chicago**. His work can be found in many institutions and museums around the world such as **Fondazione Prada**, Milan, **Francois Pinault Foundation**, Venice, **Tate**, London, **MoMa**, New York, the **Stedelijk Museum**, Amsterdam, and the **Van Abbemuseum**, Eindhoven.

Bas Jan Ader (1942 - 1975)

Bas Jan Ader was born in Windschoten, the Netherlands and lived in Los Angeles for the last twelve years of his life. He received his Bachelor of Fine Arts at the Otis Art Institute in 1965 and his Master of Fine Arts at the Claremont Graduate School and University Center in 1975. In that same year Ader's career came to an abrupt end with a failed attempt to cross the Atlantic Ocean in a small raft for his project *In Search of the Miraculous*. Bas Jan Ader produced a modest body of work but is considered as one of the most important and mythical figures of the conceptual art movement. Bas Jan Ader's work has been exhibited widely in recent years including various exhibitions such as *Under The Big Black Sun* at the **MOCA**, Los Angeles; the 30th **Sao Paulo Biennial** and retrospectives at the **CGAC - Centro Galego de Arte Contemporánea**, Santiago Compostela and the **Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna (MAMbo)**. His work is included in many museum collections such as the **MoMa**, New York; **Palais de Toyko**, Paris; the **Stedelijk Museum**, Amsterdam; the **Art Institute of Chicago** and the **Brooklyn Museum of Art**.

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Bas Jan Ader - *Please Don't Leave Me*, (1969/2015), *In Search Of...* installation view, GRIMM, Amsterdam

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