



Press release

PLAYSTATION @ Galerie Fons Welters

Galerie Fons Welters

10 januari – 7 februari

Opening: zaterdag 10 januari, 17:00 – 19:00

Openingstijden: dinsdag t/m zaterdag 13:00 – 18:00

Marieke Schoonderbeek

What does big actually mean? And heavy? And clear? Strong?

It is these concepts, which have acquired certain fixed, rational definitions over the centuries, that are re-examined by **Marieke Schoonderbeek** (Hoogland, 1982). For her exhibition in PLAYSTATION, **Schoonderbeek** presents a collection of sculptures of varying sizes and materials that form an integrated entity, precisely because of the artist's highly personal sense of space.

The different-sized wood, glass, bronze, plaster and ceramic sculptures are arranged beside, over and in each other: from a large, vertical covering to a small, bronze, partly polished sphere. Each has a different volume, and through their specific material properties, specific combinations and the artist's specific interventions, they are present, occupy the space, in a particular way. Together they constitute a remarkable world, in which **Schoonderbeek** returns to the fundamentals and origins of sculpture. Materials, dimensions and shapes are subjected to renewed enquiry and wielded with a wholly specific logic, the aim being to discover the consequences of these precise properties. Subsequently, the spectator has the opportunity to rediscover the objects. What had initially appeared self-evident and normal suddenly becomes remarkable. For instance, **Schoonderbeek** reflects on the question of what 'big' means. How big does an object have to be, to radiate a certain grandeur? A small object may contain a certain promise within it, but what happens if that object is executed on a large scale? Answers to all these questions can be found in the properties of each individual work, but most importantly in their inter-relationships.

The different volumes that **Schoonderbeek** presents are not made intelligible by any narrative, symbolism or iconography. It is the presence of the objects that lie before us and their mutual relationships that generate meaning. Shapes, lines, sizes and materials are the basis of sculpture, and it is these very concepts that **Schoonderbeek** places in the limelight. Not to convey external significance, but precisely to be themselves.

[Laurie Cluitmans]