

‘MAINSTREAM – awareness by art’

Water ArtWork Group Contribution for Istanbul 2009

(Ten professional visual artists from Turkey and Abroad show their ‘water’ art)



© Maria Sezer – ' broom flows' installation with tree branches and blue pigment

Ten professional artists working in Turkey and The Netherlands found each other on common ground in their concern for the shortage of drinking water and good sewerage systems, environmental pollution and the obvious signs of global warming and its subsequent effect in Turkey on dry areas including Central Anatolia (Cappadocia is a UNESCO World Heritage site) but also for big cities as Ankara and Istanbul. They acknowledge that there is a growing struggle between urban and rural areas caused by global changes.

The food supply and major water use of cities diverted from rural areas create a great pressure and imbalance. For example, Turkey's longest river Kızılırmak that runs through Cappadocia is almost empty. It has supplied Ankara with drinking water since 2008. The artists respond to the dilemma between East and West conditions. They use their art to give this shape to create 'Awareness by Art' for both Turkey and the global Water issue. The artists will further develop and show their works in Istanbul in 2009 and 2010, when there are many activities, events and forums organized around art and the global water issue.

Ten artists presented within the group 'MAINSTREAM – Awareness by Art':

- **Paul Wiegerinck & Susan de Kruiff** – born The Netherlands – *Video installation*.
- **Rineke Kop & Clemens Zalm** - born The Netherlands – *Photography/Painting*.
- **Paul Broekman** – born The Netherlands, lives in Turkey – *Installation*.
- **Ulay** – born Germany, lives in The Netherlands – *Installation/Photography*.
- **Willemijn Bouman** - born The Netherlands, lives in Turkey – *Painting*.
- **Maria Sezer** - born The Netherlands, lives in Turkey – *Installation*.
- **Nancy Atakan** – born USA, lives in Turkey – *Installation /Photography/Video*.
- **Gül Ilgaz** – born Turkey – *Mixed media*.

Documents & websites & video's for understanding 'MAINSTREAM – awareness by art' to be downloaded from the web page:

- 'MAINSTREAM – Awareness by Art' <http://www.wbouman.com/water.html>
- 5th World water Forum 2009 – Artistic and Cultural Events.
- Alternative Water Forum – 2009
- Art/Eco Platform Cappadocia.
- Babayan Culture House – art residency in Cappadocia.
- EKOKAP – ecological wastewater pilot project in Cappadocia.
- Garbage and wastewater problems in Ortahisar and Ibrahimpasa.
- UNESCO World Heritage – Cappadocia & Istanbul
- Video: *A Lunar Landscape* – by KozaVisual on critical water situation in Cappadocia.
- Video with artist's presentations of Netherlands Pavilion - 3d Contemporary Art Festival Mustafapasa, Cappadocia, 2008.
- Gölyazi Lake Project – Artists residency program for the social transformation of Uluabat village, Bursa. A community based art project organized and coordinated by Gül Ilgaz (MAINSTREAM member artist).
- 5533 – An experimental art space in Istanbul founded by Nancy Atakan (MAINSTREAM member artist).

Support:

- NIHAnkara - Netherlands Institute for Higher Education
- KozaVisual - audio-visual research and education
- TNWP - Turkish Netherlands water Partnership
- NIT - Netherlands Institute in Turkey
- Royal Netherlands Embassy
- Babayan Culture House Foundation
- Santral Istanbul
- FabrikArtGrup - Initiator of the Annual International Contemporary Art Festival Cappadocia.

Sponsors & Founders & Subsidizers (to be approached):

- Royal Netherlands Embassy
- Local art organizations in The Netherlands, Germany, Turkey etc.
- Exhibition space owners, printing offices, etc.

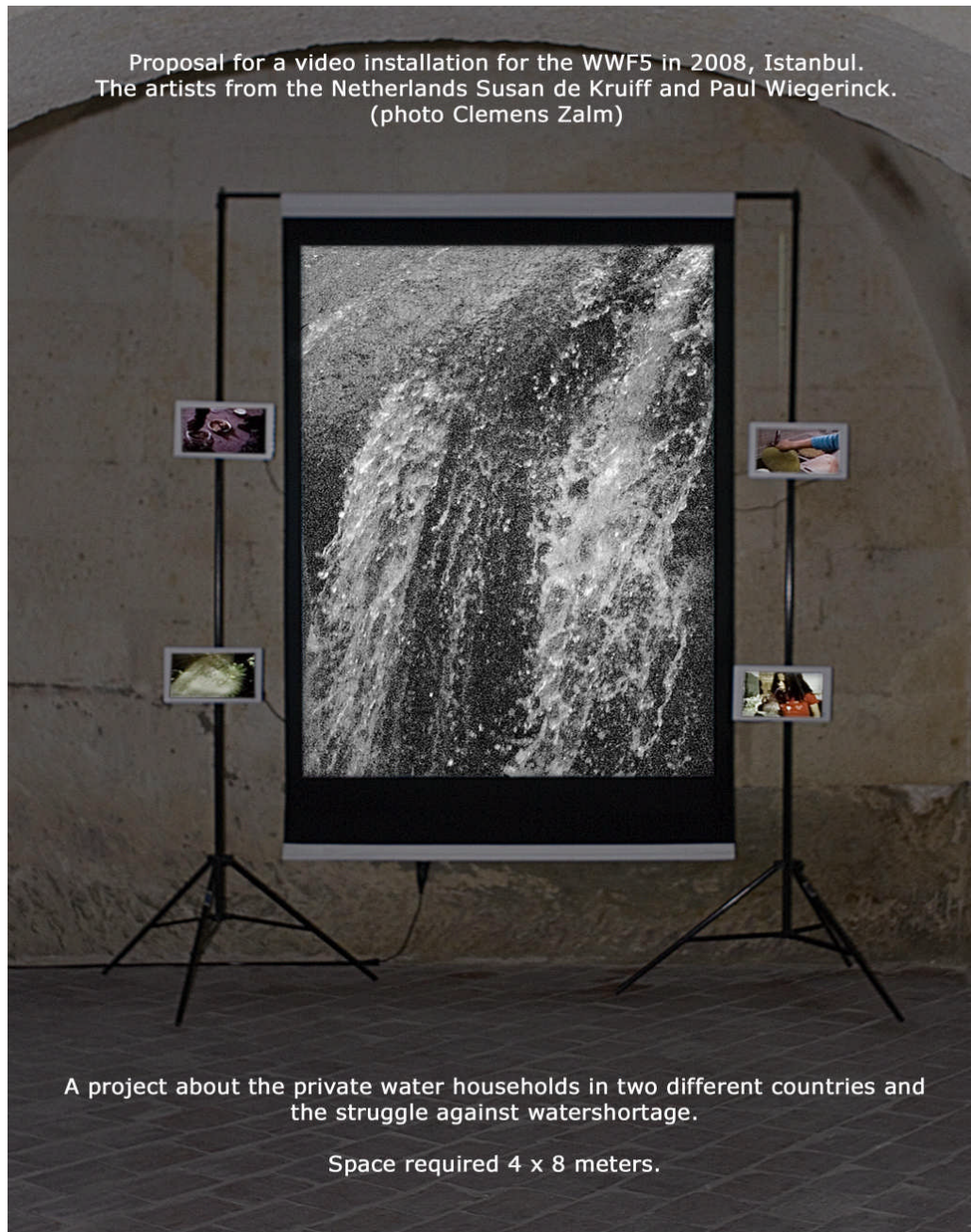
Main link to all artists websites and up-dated information:

<http://www.wbouman.com/water.html>

PAUL WIEGERINCK & SUSAN DE KRUIFF

Water Artwork Contribution
'MAINSTREAM – awareness by art'

Proposal for a video installation for the WWF5 in 2008, Istanbul.
The artists from the Netherlands Susan de Kruiff and Paul Wiegerinck.
(photo Clemens Zalm)



Equipment: four small video frames, a video beamer, a DVD-player, two tri-pods, one sound amplifier and a video screen.

Both artists are from The Hague, The Netherlands.

If you want more information on this project, mail to: wiegerin@wanadoo.nl.

<http://www.paulwiegerinck.nl>

<http://www.susandekruiff.com>

Project Plan

Paul Wiegerinck / Susan de Kruiff

The concept of this project is to visually connect the private water households of two countries, The Netherlands and Turkey, in a video-installation. This visual connection depicts on the one hand differences between both cultures and on the other side it marks similarities.

People and water – in all of its aspects (in the video fragments to begin with water and the cooking of food).

We have chosen for Turkey because of the different social involvement, a different level of prosperity and the extreme climatologically circumstances, compared to the Dutch situation. Therefore, in the individual shots there will undoubtedly be a difference between the daily water house holdings in the two countries. But by bringing these together we symbolise the universal fact that water is a first need of life, the lifeline for all living things.

The project is carried out in two steps:

Step 1

During the first phase video shoots will be made in The Netherlands. Occupants of the districts where the artists live are asked to open a tap in their house and drink some from it, or use water in any other way (emphasis on cooking). For a week (five days) as many people as possible will be approached and filmed. Due to the nature of the districts the artists live in, people with a great variety of backgrounds will be filmed.

Step 2

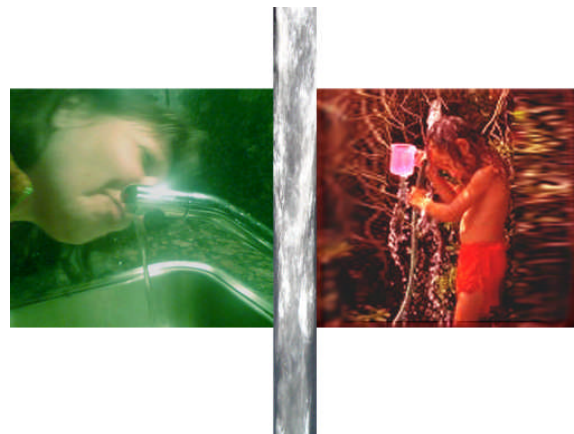
In the second phase video recordings will be made in Turkey. Like in The Netherlands people will be asked to use some water (emphasis on cooking). Then the filmed issues will be edited and processed into timeless and universal shots. Timeless and universal as water. This can be achieved by filtering the original colours and make the images monochrome (see images) or black and white.



On a large screen there's a projection of a huge waterfall.

On both sides of the larger screen, onto four smaller screens, we show the trembling vitality of our daily existence - the constant reaching for the water stream. The need of water as a lifeline (can also be the care for the water / the environment / the maintenance of the river / the sprinkling of the fields)

The sound of water coming out of the taps accumulate to the sound of a huge waterfall. In the surroundings of the church, where we show the video-installation, you can hear the sound of streaming water getting louder and louder and then the sound diminishing and it starts to build up again.



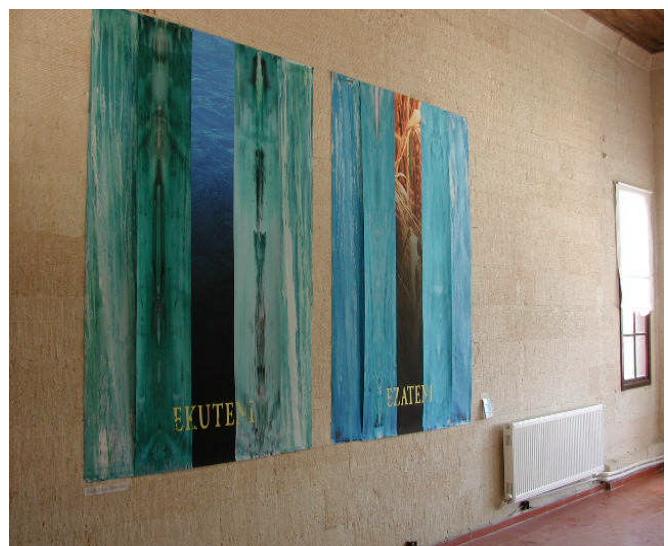
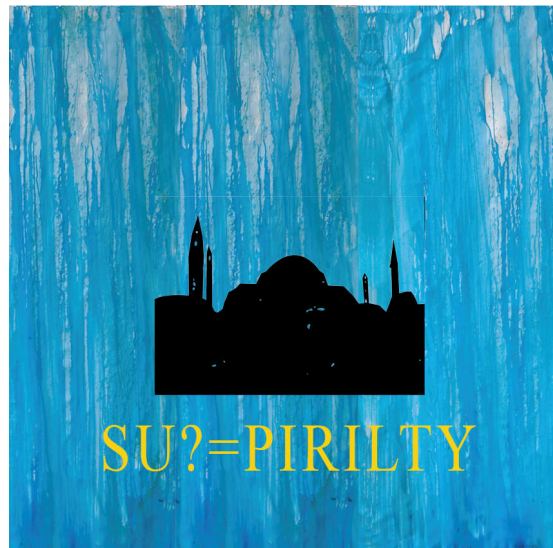
CLEMENS ZALM & RINEKE KOP
Water Artwork Contribution
'*MAINSTREAM – awareness by art*'

We used the Aya Sofia as a symbol for the location "Istanbul" and we will use these symbols in a series of works in which we will create an artificial image off (clear) water. These images will be in an exhibition space and of each work we make print materials as example postcards and at the backside off these cards there will be a story told about clear water.

We will distribute these print materials for free in the whole city so too contribute to the awareness about clear water.

Techniques: photography + painting.

Proposed works (3 designs):



In this image we used a part of our material from our water art project in the 3d Contemporary Art festival in Mustafapasa WATER!=BRIGHT? SU! PIRILTI? (photo below right).
Read more on this project: <http://www.clemenzalm.nl/projectturkey.htm>

PAUL BROEKMAN
Water Artwork Contribution
'MAINSTREAM – awareness by art'

My intention is to show two glass boxes put on two consoles (50 x 30 x 100 cm high) with the following objects:



"Water circulation"

© 2008 Paul Broekman
Glass box, two taps and copper tube



"Half empty, half full"

© 2008 Paul Broekman
Glass box, two glasses

More information on his water project: <http://home.hetnet.nl/~wed3512/water.htm>
Paul Broekman is born 1953 in Utrecht, The Netherlands.
Visual artist since 1974. Now lives and works in Cappadocia, Turkey.

<http://home.hetnet.nl/~wed3512/>

ULAY
Water Artwork Contribution
'MAINSTREAM – awareness by art'

In 2002, during his professorship for new media art at the State School of Art and Design in Karlsruhe, artist Uwe Laysiepen (Ulay) initiated the multidimensional art project WATERTOALL. At the heart of this project lies Laysiepen's desire to visualise a range of aspects connected with drinking water, e.g. the management and use of water, the availability of pure drinking water for people worldwide, alternative methods of collecting and distributing water, and last but not least cultural values and rituals concerning water.

There is growing awareness worldwide about the fundamental meaning of the availability of fresh drinking water for every human being. Both the shortage and surplus of water could lead to global problems that subsequently result into economic and political conflicts.

The core of the project is art and its capabilities to visualise and communicate. The WATERTOALL project centres around the production of documents and documentaries from the perspective of international artists. It is about art, communication and ethics, not politics. Projects and workshops from all over the world cover real, everyday situations of people and their need of and right to fresh water.

The outputs of the activities are not only photography, video and audio material imbued with commitment, but also real-time and live-stream reports and events, channelled through the internet and brought to galleries, museums and the public arena at large. Laysiepen refers to this way of communicating as LIVE STREAMED MATTER.

WATERTOALL sees its mission as: visualising and communicating about the availability of fresh drinking water for man and animal, worldwide, informing the public and enhancing awareness of present and future issues concerning fresh water, as well as stimulating innovative-alternative water projects.

Visualisation and communication are supported by new media such as portable field-labs which combine digital film, photography, audio- and satellite technology.

WATERTOALL strives to be a platform based on the principle of dialogue, thereby bridging political, social and ecological differences of opinion and interest. It seeks cooperation with educational institutions, international organisations and commercial companies that have put the water issue high on their agenda. To this end, the WATERTOALL Foundation, a non-profit NGO, will be established in the Netherlands in 2005 to provide a legal ground for the ongoing project.

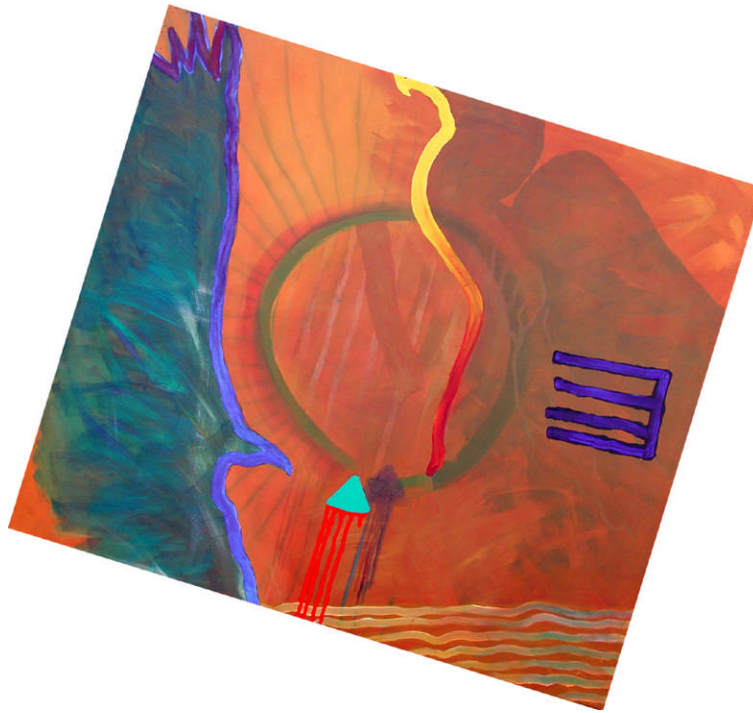


WATERTOALL 2004 I.F.

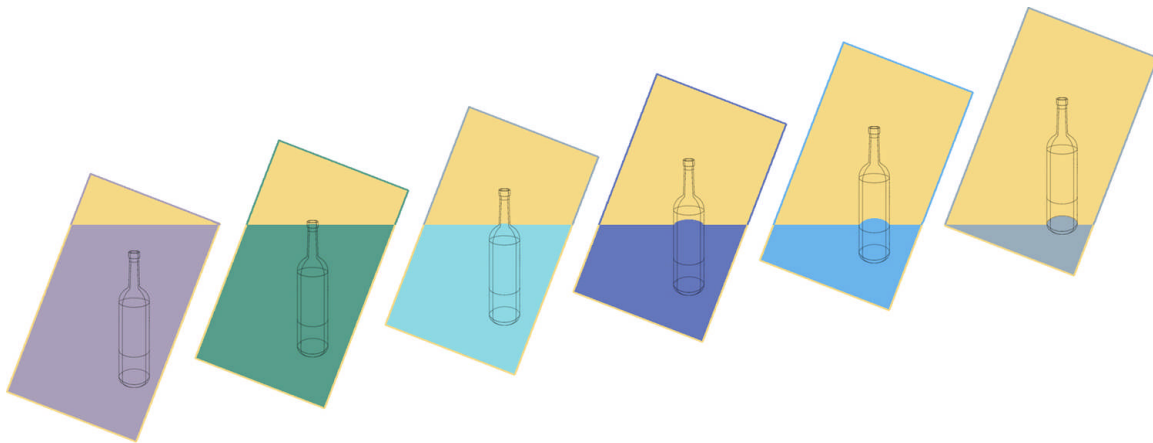


From Pharmacy to Cult 1986 - 2006

WILLEMIJN BOUMAN
Water Artwork Contribution
'MAINSTREAM – awareness by art'



'WATERLEVEL', acrylic/canvas, 130-150 cm, 2008



'MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE' (design), acrylic/canvas, series of six, size per artwork: 100-140 cm

A way to show the global situation of water is critical. Therefore the water in the works is leveled, but the paintings are hanging out of balance. These works need a wall surface of 2.50m. – 13 m. Former exhibition with these works and theme:

3d Contemporary Art Festival Mustafapasa 2008, WATER! = BRIGHT? SU! = PIRILTI?

Willemijn Bouman – born in The Netherlands, lives and works in Cappadocia, Turkey.

MARIA SEZER

Water Artwork Contribution
'MAINSTREAM – awareness by art'

I would like to make an installation that uses branches from trees or bushes in combination with blue pigment or just work with pigment and make a floor-painting. Aim is to play with the idea of interdependence between life-forms.

A few pictures to get an idea of the type of work I am thinking of making for the water exhibitions 2009.



“broom flows”, Cappadocia, 2008



Try-out for floor-picture on plants doomed to extinction because of the drying up of wetlands or the making of dams.

<http://www.mariasezer.com>

NANCY ATAKAN
'WATER – awareness by art'



'When Inside Feels Outside and Outside Feels Inside'
Digital print in lightbox, 2001
Size varies to fit exhibition space

Nancy Atakan - born 1946 USA, lives in Istanbul.

When, in our hectic lives, can we feel a state of peace and equilibrium? This is the question I asked. As we enter the warm waters of the sea, as our head goes below the water, as thoughts of daily life blur, as we float the soundless timeless space can we reach a quiet peaceful state? In this weightless space, can we attempt to make our minds quiet as meditation? Entering water can also be a metaphor for entering our subconscious, for attempting to find a psychological equilibrium.

When materializing this work, it was important for me to make every portion equal inside a square space... right/left, up/down, male/female, air/water, spiritual/physical. Living between two cultures, between two religions, between two countries as I do, makes the attempt to find this psychological equilibrium particularly important for me. Perhaps it is also important for the numerous displaced persons living in this mobile area.

<http://www.nancyatakan.com/>

GÜL ILGAZ
Water Artwork Contribution
'MAINSTREAM – awareness by art'



'Pass by and go now at last',
2008, photography

Gül Ilgaz lives and works in Istanbul

Gül Ilgaz uses photography and computer manipulated images, video projects and installations in her works. She uses her personal dilemmas with the society that she lives in, as well as the dilemma between East and West as context.

<http://gulilgaz.banff.org/gulilgaz.html>