

In our final cycle of *Sequins*, Shimmer invites artist duo Bik Van der Pol to transform Shimmer into a site of inquiry through the rhythms of remembering. Bik Van der Pol's artworks act as a conduit and connector to other practices, politics, and generations, moving the audience to revisit forgotten moments and memories from their works. For the exhibition the artists' have made three new works springing from their 1996 work *The Bookshop Piece* presented at Boijmans van Beuningen, in Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

On the *The Bookshop Piece* the artists' write:

“In this machine for knowledge which was filled with 4,000-5,000 books (books on art, culture, world) that were for sale, information was shared, events organized, and memory produced. The work called for social and intellectual change by creating an environment of access, in a city where, at that time, no such data were available to the public. Urgent, we felt. We wanted the creative energy of the everyday environment to be utilised to the fullest. What was left after the piece (the object) was gone? Dissemination of knowledge carried by bodies, memory of the project in the minds of many minds, traces of the 4,000-5,000 books (every book was stamped) on private bookshelves and in public and university libraries, worldwide, as well as digital and archival traces.

There is no trace left of this work, nor of any of the other time-based projects in the archives of the museum. No documentation images, no information folders, nothing. No trace either in the digital archives (this would have given access to the possibility of return). Why are certain things privileged, why are others not cared about? Why are some things kept/saved/seen, and others not? What is the responsibility of a museum with regards to preserving their own exhibition history? And, for the future: where does the museum go, what does it consist of? What could a museum be? What is the value of a collection, the fabric of society, what they do with it? Is the museum and its workings out of focus, inaccessible? What and where are the blueprints? Who decides?”

*Sequins Cycle 4 with Bik Van der Pol*

Exhibition dates: 17 December 2023 - 17 February 2024



## ABOUT THE EXHIBITION PROGRAM

*Sequins* is a collective rhythmic space of visual art in the context of performance and music. Pan-cultural rhythm, existing before articulations of difference, is the undercurrent of our year long program. The exhibition is a series of material and atmospheric experiences that unfold over time, where artwork clusters together in a burst of energy or slows down at times to a single work, giving space for the building anticipation of the next accumulation of artworks. The program builds, crests, and collapses.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Since 1995, Liesbeth Bik and Jos van der Pol have worked as Bik Van der Pol. They work and live in Rotterdam (NL). Through their practice Bik Van der Pol aim to articulate and understand how art can produce a public sphere and space for speculation and imagination. This includes forms of mediation through which publicness is not only defined but also created. Their work follows from research of how to activate situations to create a platform for exchange and experience of different knowledges. Bik Van der Pol's mode of working consists of setting up the conditions for encounter, where they develop a process of working that allows for continuous reconfigurations of places, histories, and publics. Their practice is site-specific and collaborative, with dialogue as a mode of transfer; a “passing through”, understood in its etymological meaning of “a speech across or between two or more people, out of which may emerge new understandings”. In fact, they consider the element of “passing through” as vital. It is temporal and implies action and the development of new forms of discourse. Their practice is both instigator and result of this method.

They have exhibited their work at numerous venues, as well as participated in biennials such as Gwangju, Istanbul, Jakarta, and Sao Paulo. Recent projects include What is this world? At Park, Tilburg (2022), a research residency project in collaboration with School of Casablanca, Kunstwerke and ThinkArt Casablanca (2021-23), a project in collaboration with Volt, Bergen (Norway), Take Part (2018-20), with SFMOMA and Public Libraries, San Francisco, and Far Too Many Stories To Fit Into So Small A Box, Ujazdowski Castle Centre for Contemporary Art, Warsaw (2019-20). Bik Van der Pol were co-initiators of artist-run space Duende existing from 1984-2013, where they organised many activities such as artist in residence programs, talks, screenings and exhibition projects, they were course directors of The School of Missing Studies - a Temporary Masters programme at Sandberg Institute, Amsterdam (2013-15), and they are advisors at the Jan van Eyck Academie in Maastricht. Liesbeth is a core-tutor at Piet Zwart Institute (Rotterdam), and a member, and currently chair, of the Akademie van Kunsten/Academy of Arts, that is part of the Dutch Royal Academy of Science (KNAW).

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