Mono Men

Guardians of Time

Olivier van Breugel & Simone Mudde

Exhibition

X Paradox

1. Project description

They are everywhere in Tokyo: security guards at construction sites. Come rain or shine, they are always there. Their perseverance is as absurd as it is admirable.

The age of *teinen*, the Japanese word for retirement, is 62. However, retiring in Japan does not mean the same thing as in Europe. *Teinen* marks the end of 'lifetime employment' but not a complete withdrawal from the labour force. This transitional arrangement is designed to free up jobs for younger workers. What's more, if you have spent your entire career working six days a week and most of your social life has revolved around work, retirement is akin to social isolation.

Visualising a small, everyday subject that examines a larger phenomenon is an approach that Simone Mudde and Olivier van Breugel have previously applied to projects such as *McHotel* (2012) and *Between Screens* (2014). *Mono Men* (2016) is a series of monumental videos about endlessness and boredom. The dedication with which the guards perform their monotonous work raises questions about the meaning and perception of time.

2. The authors

Olivier van Breugel & Simone Mudde
Dutch photographers Mudde and Van Breugel (1989) both graduated in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in photography from AKV|Sint Joost, Breda. They have collaborated on several projects since 2012. While Mudde develops ideas quickly and associatively, Van Breugel is more analytical. Both approaches are visible in their work. In 2014 their work was part of the group exhibition *On the Move*, on contemporary developments in photography, at the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam. The Nederlands Fotomuseum in Rotterdam included their work in *Quickscan #2* (2016), presenting the latest trends in Dutch photography.

Olivier van Breugel's current project, with the title *Nothing Repeats in the Same Way*, is based on his daily travels with the ferry crossing the IJ-river in Amsterdam and a text of the French process philosopher Henri Bergson. He plays with static and moving elements in everyday situations, time is again an important factor. Simone Mudde currently studies Master fine art photography at the Royal College of Art.

Sketch of a two screen presentation with two entrances

3. Exhibition

Audio visual installation with multiple screens
The exhibition can vary between two and five screens, where two is the absolute minimum to get a good view on the core of the installation.

Technical information
Minimum space for a two screen installation is 8m wide x 4m long x 3m high. All projection walls should be painted in RAL 7047 to get an optimal contrast (this might vary a little in relation to the space and beamers). All other walls should be painted black, the top should be covered with a fireproof impregnated black cloth.
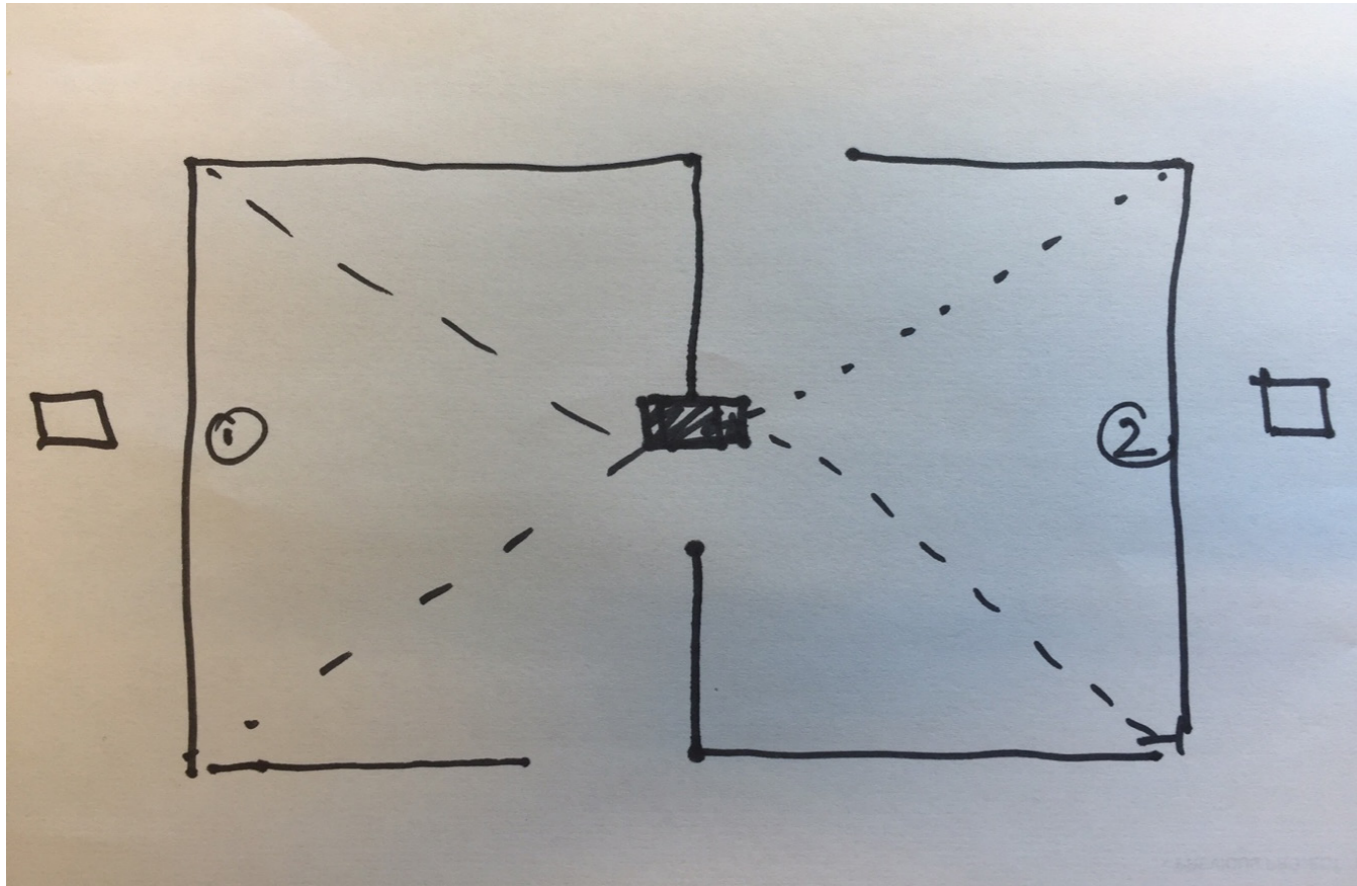
It is best to have two entrances on two opposite sides; a middle passage is preferable. Ultimately, for the full-scale version, the installation should refer to a more urban labyrinthine situation.
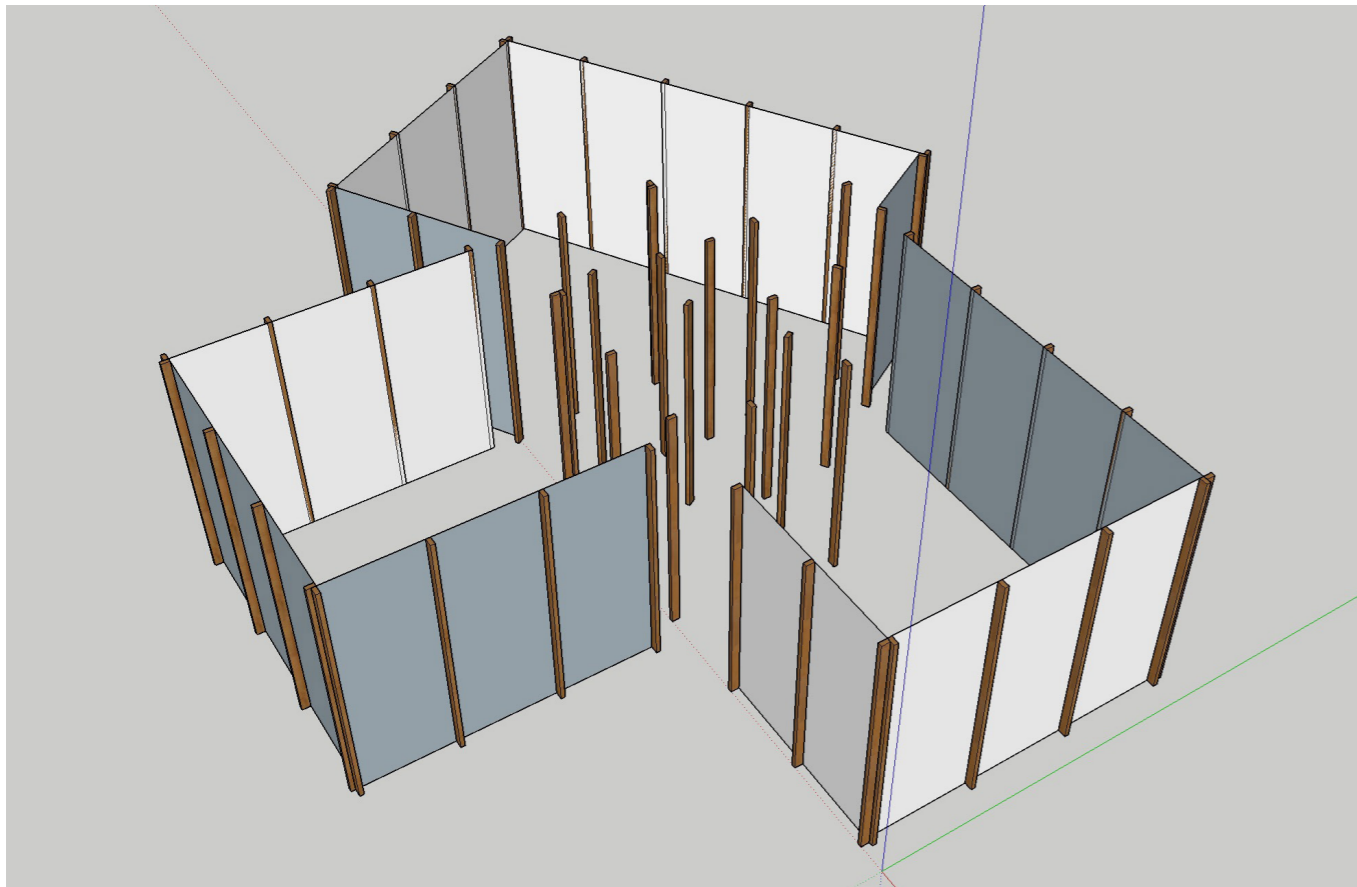
Projectors
Type: Short throw
Aspect ratio: 16:9
Resolution: 1080p / FullHD
Brightness: 2200lumen
Contrast: 10,000:1

Audio
Two channel speaker set

Suggested floorplan for multiscreen installation, can be adjusted per venue

Render Mono Men

Still from Mono Men

4. Paradox

Paradox is based in Edam (20 kilometres north of Amsterdam). The not for profit organisation develops projects around contemporary issues with documentary authors: photographers, filmmakers, visual artists, writers and researchers. Paradox does not programme its own exhibition space but collaborates with venues in the Netherlands and abroad. Since 1993 Paradox has developed more than 60 distinctive activities, travelling to some 150 venues worldwide.
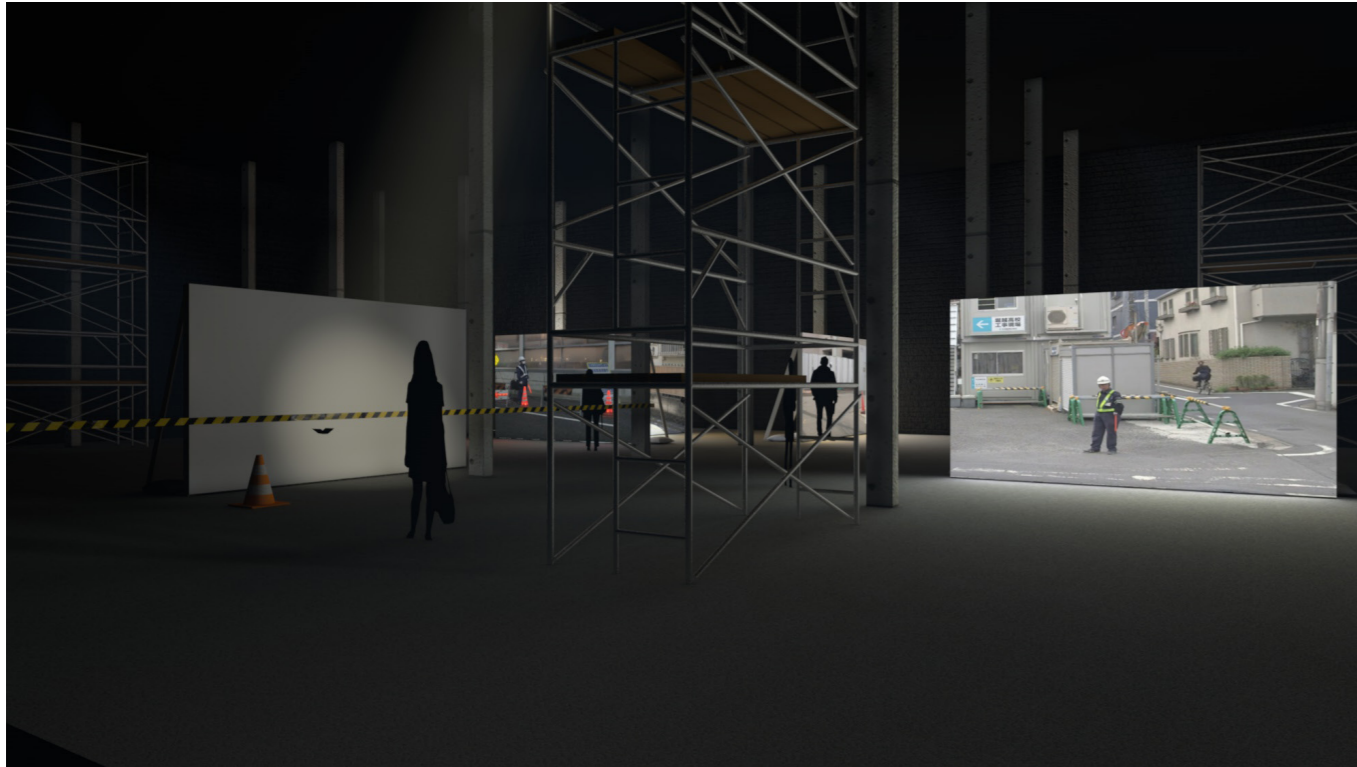
Paradox was founded in 1993 with the aim of stimulating the development in photoraphphy. To reach this, Paradox produces travelling exhibitions, organises symposia and publishes audio-visual, digital and printed publications. Our projects focus on the recording of history as it is unfolding. The interaction between social, economic and technical changes in society are recurring aspects in both our thematic and monographic projects. Within these projects we experiment explicitly with multimedia forms of presentation, and the interaction between different disciplines (photography, film, audio, writing) as well as platforms (exhibitions, websites, books, DVDs, tablet Apps and educational programmes).

Our main goal is to reach a wide audience without losing the nuances that the addressed social issues require. This is the reason behind our multiplatform strategy: one reaches a different audience with a diversity of platforms. But the synergy between different media as well as platforms also create new experiences for an audience, raising questions in unexpected ways. Furthermore, it challenges the notions and conventions around the presentation of (photographic) material leading to experiments mixing of old and new technology, media and platforms.

Paradox seeks partners in realizing these kind of projects, in particular publishers, designers and partner institutions in the Netherlands and abroad. Exhibitions are created in close collaboration with museums and as a result travel to a broad variety of institutions, both nationally and internationally.

Project List
Turtle 1 | Voyage à Dakar | Borders Kill | 9 Days - from my window in Aleppo | Women We Have Not Lost Yet | The New Suez Canal | Digital Storytelling | Chickens; Scared by Torpedo | Ebifananyi | The Last Book Revisited | Maydan - 100 Portraits | I Hear You | Not in my Back Yard | Points on the Map | Me We | Oil & Paradise | Look at me and Tell me if you Have Known me Before | Via Panam | Offside | Poppy | The Netherlands - Off the Shelf | Indelible Images | Angry | Tokyo Symphony | We are the World | Spectator | Occupation: Soldier | Multivocal Histories | The Last Days of Shishmaref | So Blue So Blue | North Holland Biennale 2008 | Go No Go | Five Stories | Greenhouse | The Wars | European Fields | Why Mister, Why? | I(p+r)/n | Britanya | Experience | Ay Dios | >play | East Wind West Wind | p'rend | Dutch Fields | City Bikes / Stadsfietsen | Avatar | Long Live me!

.

Paradox