



# Mono Men

Guardians of Time

Olivier van Breugel &  
Simone Mudde

Exhibition



**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. Publications include *Between Screens* (2014) and *McHotel* (2013).

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#### **Exhibition**

Audio visual installation with multiple screens. Preview at Breda Photo, September 2016.

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#### **Paradox documentary projects**

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Paradox creates independent projects in photography, video and media related arts exploring contemporary issues in close collaboration with documentary authors, curators and designers.

# Mono Men

## Guardians of Time

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.



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