

In 2006 Karl Van Welden initiated United Planets, a cycle of visual and performative work based on terrestrial or human presence in the universe. How does humankind relate to the immensity of the universe? Using the planets in our solar system as anchor points, he searches for artistic answers to this fundamental question, with a predilection for silenced movement and architectural forms.

As an atmospheric backdrop, each planet represents another series of projects. The PLUTO series plays out in a closed wooden box in the public space and is only accessible to one viewer at a time. Inside, a cinematic scene between three people repeats itself every twenty minutes. SATURN is a series of site-specific performance-installations focusing on themes such as distance, intimacy, infinity, control and power in relation to the contemporary landscape. The panoptical setup of eight observation cabins offers a wide view of the surroundings. *SATURN I - landscape* explores the shaping powers at work in a natural landscape while *SATURN II - cityscape*, focuses on an urban landscape, and *SATURN III - townscape*, highlights a rural environment. The MARS series focuses on human resistance against great physical forces. The series started with *IMAGES FOR MARS I*, a video work in which two soldiers of the Belgian army slowly lean towards each other, their feet held in a layer of concrete. The source of inspiration for the second chapter is our view on catastrophes. The performance *MARS II* investigates the impact of a rain of ash on music, and on the pianist performing the music.

The other work is smaller in scale but covers more or less the same thematic approach as the performative work. It comprises drawings, paintings, installations, interventions, video and three-dimensional works, which can act as reflections, preliminary studies, but could just as easily exist autonomously or be combined into one work. Whether sound or image with these works the artist also explore multilayeredness, balancing between autonomous poetics and subtle references to social or political themes. *A Fall* presents a disaster scenario for a single object. A self-made vinyl record spins on a turntable in a closed display. A rain of ash slowly descends, turning the whole scene dark grey, until the music and movement eventually come to a halt. What remains is a fragile, purposeless object in a monochrome landscape. The installation *Column* continues this exploration of volcanoes and the consequences of eruption. A wooden sculpture suspended in the air trembles due to various low-frequency sound waves, producing a column of ash. Every edition of the installation uses self-composed sounds, honouring a specific eruption. In the intervention and video work *Homo Bulla* a bubble appears at irregular intervals, floating through public space until it bursts and goes up in smoke. A small, fragile and elusive event which elicits a poetic sight amid daily life.

His work has been shown in a variety of contexts such as Kaaitheater (BE), Beursschouwburg (BE), Vooruit (BE), M HKA (BE), Marion de Cannière (BE), Workspace Brussels (BE), Festival of Flanders (BE), Concertgebouw Brugge (BE), Frascati (NL), Brakke Grond (NL), Metropolis (DK), Pact Zollverein (DE), Ostfold Kulturutvikling (NO), Marseille Provence 2013 (FR), Le Vivat (FR), Uzès Danse (FR), Arsenal (FR), Naves Matadero (ES), Tokyo Wonder Site - TOKAS (JP), Gessnerallee Zürich (CH), Sonica (UK), Dark Matter Games - Venice Art Biennale 2017 (IT) and WING - Art Basel Hong Kong 2018 (HK).

KARL VAN WELDEN

17 October 1980, Oudenaarde - Belgium

Studio: Driesstraat 30 C, 9050 Ghent (Ledeberg)

Contact: T +32477585209 | karl@verenigdeplaneten.be

Website: www.karlvanwelden.be | www.unitedplanets.be

Education and Residencies

- 2018 KANAL - Centre Pompidou: residency (August, BE - Brussels)
- 2018 WING: residency (March – April, HK - Hong Kong)
- 2015 Workspace Brussels: residency (January, BE - Brussels)
- 2014 Hotel Pro Forma: residency (November - December, HPF, DK - Copenhagen)
- 2013 Tokyo Wonder Site (TOKAS): Research Residency (January - February, TWS, JP - Tokyo)
- 2012 - 2020 wpZimmer: long term (since November 2012 - ..., wpZimmer.be, BE - Antwerp)
- 2012 Pact Zollverein: Creation MARS series (August - September, PACT, DE – Essen)
Springcamp 2012 - System Error: Creation MARS series (March - timelab*, Springcamp 2012, BE - Ghent)
- 2010 Pact Zollverein: Creation SATURN series (December, PACT, DE - Essen)
- 2007 Acting out technology (August - September, Arts Performance Theatricality and POPOK, DeBuren, BE - Brussels / Antwerp)
- 2003-2004 University Antwerp: GGS Performance Studies (MaNaMa), free scholarship
- 1998-2004 University Ghent: Lic. (Master) Art Science, magna cum laude

Performances, Interventions and Installations

2020	MARS II <i>in situ</i> (Naves Matadero, ES - Madrid)
2019	A FALL. (Sonica, CCA, UK - Glasgow) A FALL. (Concertgebouw Brugge, BE - Bruges) MARS II <i>in situ</i> (Concertgebouw Brugge, BE - Bruges) MARS II <i>in situ</i> (Arsenal, FR - Metz) MARS II <i>in situ</i> (cmchelen, BE - Mechelen, site-specific)
2018	MARS II <i>installation</i> (Nuit Blanche, BE - Brussels, site specific) SATURN II (Toneelhuis, BE - Antwerp, site specific) HOMO BULLA (WING - Art Basel Hong Kong, HK - Hong Kong, site-specific) A FALL (Gouvernement, BE - Ghent)
2017	MARS II <i>in situ</i> (cha, BE - Hasselt, site-specific) MARS II <i>in situ</i> (Festival of Flanders, BE - Kortrijk, site-specific) HOMO BULLA (Dark Matter Games - openingsweek Venice Biennale, IT - Venice, site-specific) COLUMN (Working Title Festival, BE - Brussels, site-specific) A FALL (15 years Ontroerend Goed, BE - Ghent) A FALL (M HKA, BE - Antwerp) MARS II (Warande, BE - Turnhout) MARS II (Keine Disziplin, Gessnerallee, CH - Zürich)
2016	MARS II (Oortreders, Musica & Dommelhof, BE - Neerpelt) MARS II (Love at first sight, DEStudio, BE - Antwerp) MARS II <i>in-situ</i> (Uzès Danse, FR - Uzès, site specific) A FALL (Leftfield, CCBerchem, BE - Antwerp) MARS II (Burning Ice, Kaaitheater, BE - Brussels) MARS II (Something Raw, Frascati, NL - Amsterdam) MARS II (Le Vivat, FR - Armentières)
2015	MARS II (Vooruit, BE - Ghent) SATURN III (Frederiksten Musikkfestuke, NO - Halden, site specific) A FALL (Vooruit, BE - Ghent) A FALL (Pact Zollverein, DE - Essen) A FALL (Burning Ice, Kaaitheater, BE - Brussels)
2014	SATURN II (Festival Kanal, Kaaitheater, BE - Brussels, site specific) SATURN III (Dansand!, Vrijstaat O, BE - Ostend, site specific)
2013	SATURN II (Marseille Provence 2013 – European Capital of Culture, MuCEM, FR - Marseille, site specific) SATURN II (Metropolis 2013 - KIT, DK - Copenhagen, site specific) SATURN III (Marseille Provence 2013 – European Capital of Culture, FR - Istres, site specific) SATURN III (Marseille Provence 2013 – European Capital of Culture, FR - Vitrolles, site specific)
2012	MARSlab (timelab*, Springcamp 2012, BE - Ghent)
2011	SATURN I (Oerol 2011, NL - Terschelling, site specific) SATURN II (THE GAME IS UP! 2011, Vooruit, BE - Ghent, site specific)
2010	INTRO SATURN (Oerol 2010, NL - Terschelling, site specific) PLUTO I (Pazz 2010, DE - Oldenburg)
2009	IMAGES FOR MARS # I (United Planets - Bâtard, Bâtard 2009, Beursschouwburg, BE - Brussels) PLUTO I (Bâtard 2009, Beursschouwburg, BE - Brussels) INTRO PLUTO (A30, BE - Ghent)

2008	INTRO MERCURY (United Planets, BE - Ghent, site specific) CABINET OF CURIOSITIES (United Planets, BE - Ghent)
2007	HITLERMACHINE (United Planets, Chantier, BE - Ghent)
2006	'IK VERZAMEL, DUS IK BEN?' MOBIEL-LABO # IV (Great Expectations, Lux, NL - Nijmegen, soloperformance)
2005	AMIGO (Biennial - VERSUS III, BE - Oudenaarde, site specific)
2004	'IK VERZAMEL, DUS IK BEN?' MOBILE-LAB # III (Joy*Joie*Vreugd*, Beeldend, BE - Zingem, soloperformance) 'IK VERZAMEL, DUS IK BEN?' MOBILE-LAB # II (Blanco - Beursschouwburg, BE - Brussels, soloperformance)
2003	GIS EN PIERLEXA (Vooruit, BE - Ghent, groupperformance)

Exhibitions

2019	<i>Sonica</i> , CCA, UK - Glasgow, group <i>Open Noord</i> , wpZimmer, BE - Antwerp, group <i>Mars</i> , Concertgebouw Brugge, BE - Bruges, solo <i>Beyond the black box</i> , Brakke Grond, NL - Amsterdam, group
2018	<i>Squaring the circle</i> , Gallery Marion de Cannière, BE - Antwerp, solo <i>Traces and Conversations</i> , WING (Art Basel Hong Kong), HK - Hong Kong, group <i>The Volcano Notes</i> , Gouvernement, BE - Ghent, solo
2017	<i>Dark Matter Games</i> (openingsweek Venice Biennale), S.a.L.E. Docks, IT - Venice, group <i>Art's Birthday</i> , M HKA, BE - Antwerp, group
2016	<i>Waiting for the secret</i> , Workspace Brussels, BE - Brussels, group <i>In praise of waves</i> , Workspace Brussels, BE - Brussels, group <i>The central periphery</i> , DE Studio (Antwerp Art Weekend), BE - Antwerp, group
2015	<i>Atelier Exceptionnel</i> , PACT Zollverein, DE - Essen, group <i>Aandacht! Aandacht!</i> , C-mine, BE - Genk, group <i>Open Noord</i> , wpZimmer, BE - Antwerp, group <i>Aandacht! Aandacht!</i> , De Warande, BE - Turnhout, group <i>Open Studio</i> , Workspace Brussels, BE - Brussels, solo
2014	<i>Lounge</i> , Hotel Pro Forma, DK - Copenhagen, solo <i>Résister aux sirènes</i> , Les Brasseurs, BE - Liège, group <i>Open Studio</i> , BE – Ghent, solo
2013	<i>Open Noord</i> , wpZimmer, BE - Antwerp, group <i>Open Studio</i> , Tokyo Wonder Site (Aoyama) - TOKAS, JP - Tokyo, group
2012	<i>System error</i> , timelab*, BE - Ghent, group
2010	<i>Screenings</i> , A30, BE - Ghent, group
2009	<i>Boxes</i> , A30, BE - Ghent, group
2007	<i>Acting out technology</i> , Monty, BE - Antwerp, group
2006	<i>Great Expectations</i> , Lux, NL - Nijmegen, group
2005	<i>Kloone 4000</i> , NL - Amsterdam, group
2004	<i>De Maakbare Mens</i> , University Ghent, BE - Ghent, group <i>20Something</i> , Vooruit, BE - Ghent, solo

Grants and Stipends

2017	The Flemisch Government (BE): Breakthrough Paths (2018-2019)
2017	The Flemisch Government (BE): Development Stipend
2015	The Flemisch Government (BE): Project (MARS II)
2013	The Flemisch Government (BE): International Project (SATURN series)
2012	The Flemisch Government (BE): Development Stipend
2011	The Flemisch Government (BE): Project (SATURN) The City of Ghent (BE): Project (SATURN II)
2010	The City of Ghent (BE): Project (IMAGES FOR MARS I)
2009	The City of Ghent (BE): Project (INTRO PLUTO) The Province of East-Flanders (BE): Project (INTRO PLUTO)

Texts, articles and critical reviews (selection)

2019	<i>Performing Astronomy: The Orrery as Model, Theatre, and Experience</i> [EN] by Kurt Vanhoutte (Media Archaeology and Intermediate Performance, Palgrave Macmillan 2019)
2018	<i>Returning to a haunting song, or following Karl Van Welden's lead</i> [EN] by Tom Viaene (15 March 2018)
2017	<i>Mars II, een overtuigend audiovisueel dubbelbeeld</i> [NL] door Stefan Beyst (d-sites.net, January 2017)
2016	<i>In de ban van gevaar: pianoperformance Mars II sleurt luisteraar mee naar dreigend vulkaanlandschap</i> [NL] by Lotte Philipsen (Knack.be, 14 September 2016) <i>Dit was Something Raw 2016: minder rebels, meer maatschappelijk</i> [NL] by Fransien van der Putt (Cultuurelpepersbureau.nl, 21 february 2016)
2015	<i>Hva i all verden er det...</i> [NO] by Hanne Eriksen (HA Arbeiderblad, 12 June 2015)
2014	<i>Résister!</i> [FR] by Colette Dubois (H ART, n° 135, 18 December 2014) <i>Des Brasseurs résolument anticonformistes</i> [FR] by Claude Lorent (La Libre Belgique, 25 November 2014) <i>Exposition collective à contre-courant</i> [FR] by M.V. (Le Vif Weekend, n°46, November 2014) <i>Thatermakers trekken de straat op. Over gedeeld auteurschap in de podiumkunsten</i> [NL] by Evelyne Coussens (Ons Erfdeel, n°4) <i>Performer: het landschap</i> by Evelyne Coussens [NL] (De Morgen, 4 July 2014)
2013	<i>Karl Van Welden, SATURN II : Des images pour rêver</i> [FR] by Quentin Guisand (inferno-magazine.com) <i>Metropolis er illusionisternes fixerum</i> [DA] by Annette Max Hansen (netudgaven.dk) <i>Livet i et kikkertsigte</i> [DA] by Martin Rørtoft <i>SATURN II – en gave af fortrolighed og hemmelige udsnit af dooren</i> [DA] by Karen Toftegaard <i>Saturn I, II, III</i> [EN] by Ingrid Melano (the-art-markets.com) <i>Appels à l'oeil</i> [FR] by Gerard Mayen (Mouvement, n°70, July 2013) <i>SATURN II - Karl Van Welden</i> [FR] by Julie Bordenave (Stradda, n°29, July 2013) <i>27 mai: Saturne au bord de la falaise</i> [FR] by Michéa Jacobi (marseille2013lelendemain.blogspot.fr) <i>«Saturn», sur une autre planète</i> [FR] by Pierre Hivernat (Libération, 27 June 2013) <i>Paysage, panorama and panopticon</i> [NL/EN] Essay by Bart Capelle
2012	<i>Eerst als vergissing, dan als systeem</i> [NL] Essay by Pieter Van Bogaert (Timelab, Springcamp Report)
2011	<i>Poétique de la contemplation</i> [FR] by Alix De Morant (Stradda, n°22, October 2011) <i>Saturnisme et mélancolie</i> [FR] by Julie Bordenave (mouvement.com) <i>De natuur op Terschelling als inspiratiebron</i> [NL] by Jan Pieter Ekker (Het Parool, 25 June 2011)
2010	<i>Oerol beerst weer op Terschelling</i> [NL] by Daniel B. Bertina (Het Parool / Kunst & Media, 14 June 2010) <i>No Exit from Pluto</i> [EN] by Alex Lazaridis Ferguson (Performulations.com)
2009	<i>Touching from a Distance</i> [NL] by Evelyne Coussens (Corpus Kunstcritiek)

Publications

2018	MARS II, the vinyl 2LP set in hardboard gatefold with black linen and embossed print. 34 page book with extensive notes (in English), scores, illustrations and graphics. Edited by Metaphon
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