

Photography



Not like us

It is in our dreams that we are most nearly ourselves

The theme of the workshop that Space Station is presenting in MFC Zierikzee next Thursday, June 8th is *Beeldschoon*. Two professional photographers have agreed to voluntarily cooperate with the Space Station team in order to create enabling images of the people and the process. The project creates creative opportunities for cultural participation for people with a profound disability.

Disabling images of people with disabilities are created, marketed and capitalized upon, all over the world. Even charities sometimes proliferate them. These photos lie. Or, at best, create one-dimensional half-truths. The workshop *Beeldschoon* challenges these images and seeks alternatives. Photography that exaggerates particular parts of the body – flawed parts, sexual parts, missing parts, racial parts, *not like us* parts – lies. Be they ever so realistic, ever so true to life, such photos are false. A good photo – as far as Space Station is concerned – is a photo that captures the spirit of the person and reveals something of the hidden beauty of the soul. Representing not only what a person is but also what she may wish to be. It redefines reality and suggests that reality is multi-dimensional and in constant flux. It reminds us that it is in our dreams that we are most nearly ourselves.

Beeldschoon will produce images that can be added to the collection of photos that will be digitally presented by Space Station on June 22nd.

The present collection is mostly the work of amateur in-house photographers. It provides comprehensive documentation of all the different facets of the creative process that Space Station facilitates.

This collection is reinforced by images created for Space Station by Silvia Wennekes. Silvia, a landscape photographer, seems to ignore environment and tries to capture something of a common humanity in her work. It is her work then that best captures the spirit of egalitarianism that lies at the heart of Space Station. It is her work that gives the lie to the most pervasive and debilitating of all prejudices, the belief that some people, for whatever reason, are not like us. Sylvia is joining us again during the workshop *Beeldschoon*.

On June 8th. Next, PZC photographer Marijke Foldertsma intends to accept the challenge of enriching the *Beeldschoon* collection by adding some images which honour the artistic over the altruistic.

By incorporating *Beeldschoon* within its theatre project, Space Station aims at blunting the jutting edges of reality within a world that is sometimes too much us. Beside reality, *Beeldschoon* casts the illusive shadow of the dream. In our dreams, we're never different.