

—MARKERS—

From the series [Bridges]

Every 1st of the month in 2017, I have a mini-exhibition at my house. February the 1st, I am showing "Markers". These are 9 dibonds (aluminium sandwich panels, black-and-white prints with yellow marker, 42 x 60 cm), hanging in a structured grid of 3x3.

Around the world, I am doing Bridge-Performances. These performances are the makings of photographs of me by tourists on bridges. In post-production, I experiment with these photographs to emphasize certain ideas. Such as the current refugee crisis, power structures, communication, authorship and personal development.

In history, bridges were usually functional structures carrying a road across a river, ravine or another obstacle. In modern times bridges became a way to influence the landscape by way of their aesthetics. They have become icons of cities and consequently tourist attractions.

For me, the bridge is a metaphor it symbolises transition and process. The bridge is a structure that helps you in order to get somewhere physically and mentally. You can go back and forth, there is the possibility of return. The bridge in itself is an innate object, you have to do the moving.

The works show the same single person but are not necessarily about the identity of that single person. Nevertheless, it is important to see the same person in each of the pictures of the different bridges in the different countries. The bridges series are about social and human issues.

I have printed the original colour photographs in black-and-white, in the size of 10x15 cm (4x6 inch). On this printout, I coloured the bridge yellow with a marker. This I then scanned and blew up to A2 size (leaving the dpi at 300). The picture gets more pixelated and looks poorer, something of lesser value and vaguely reminds one of the looks of a newspaper, because of the black-and-white print quality and the yellow marker relating to office material.

The final prints are then prepared on an aluminium plate, as it has the connotation with bridge materials and there is a little coldness in the material. Because, in reality, these are not cheery tourist photos. The yellow could be the one positive attribute to the black-and-white, lightly pixelated photographs. It refers to something positive, which is the bridge. The symbol of connection, movement and continuity.

www.kimengelen.com/bridges