

# GERBEN MULDER STEPHEN J SHANABROOK DAAN DEN HOUTER

Frank  
taal

GALLERY  
FRANK TAAL  
ART ROTTERDAM  
07.02.18 - 11.02.18



## Gerben Mulder (Amsterdam, 1972, lives and works in NYC)

Gerben Mulder's paintings are of figures caught at the moment of contorted darkness with their bodies and their desires hanging out in a ripe suggestive manner. The obtuse sexuality and hints of sorcery are all part of Mulder's painting language that explores the darker side of the human experience.

Throughout his career, Mulder has developed a body of work that establishes a dialogue with a tradition of European painting, which spans from Velázquez's children to the distorted figures of Edward Munch. With an iridescent palette, his portraits, his flowers vases and still-life paintings emphasize psychological aspects (melancholy and euphoria) and a subjective dimension of the images. New York Times art critic Roberta Smith situates this most recent production in the gap between Raoul Dufy and Jackson Pollock. That is, between an essentially figurative painting with traditional themes on the one hand, and abstract expressionism on the other. His new works radically emphasize the materiality of painting, being conceived in a physical way. The gesture is strikingly wide, quick, and omnipresent. The spiral brush strokes, graphic-like, retro modernist mark-making bring a contemporary edge to this genre.

Mulder has exhibited throughout the world in numerous solo and group exhibitions. His Sao Paulo based gallery Fortes D'Aloia & Gabriel has been presenting him over the years at main art fairs like Art Basel, Art Basel Miami, The Armory show and at Frieze (London & New York). His works are in public and private collections in the USA, Europe, South America and Asia.

Upcoming: Armory NYC 2018





*The Devil wore white leather boots  
and was utterly innocent, 2017 oil on  
canvas, 144 x 164 cm, € 14.000,-*



*Woman striking a pose, 2017, oil  
on canvas 152 x 190 cm,  
€ 17.000,-*



*Love birds*, 2017, oil on canvas  
233 x 170 cm,  
€ 19.000,-





*Flowers in Vase*, 2017, oil on canvas,  
122 x 133 cm, Price on request



*Lowers in Vase*, 2017, oil on  
canvas, 122 x 133 cm, Price on  
request

## Stephen j Shanabrook (Cleveland Ohio, 1965, lives and works in NYC)\

Stephen j Shanabrook new sculptures are reflections on emotional deconstructs, a dissected reality presented with dark humor. The artist uses mixed media but mostly found plastic, material, which is a symbolic fossil of contemporary society. Like in “Drunk and Pregnant”, sculptural portrait of a pregnancy gone wrong, of distorted representations of guts resembling Philip Guston painting.

The disturbing line between painful and sweet, death and beauty has been the main theme throughout the career of artist Stephen j Shanabrook. Shanabrook traverses the taboo terrains of desire and violence to explore their paradoxical common ground. His vision comes very close to the edge where one usually turns back. In his works, he gives a new and often disturbing meaning to substances and forms otherwise associated with comfort, happiness and banality, like chocolate, cotton candy, toys. Like in his prominent piece at the controversial MONA museum “On the Road to Heaven Highway to Hell”, A sculptural portrait of a suicide bomber remnants made out of chocolate or his performance using a cotton-candy machine “Beaten to a Pulp on the Bed of Moss” where lighter than air melted pink sugar of pure joy accumulated on an artist’s face and body, turns into a web of pain, reminiscent of a crime or disaster scene.

As the son of an obstetrician and the town coroner, **Stephen j Shanabrook** spent his childhood working at a chocolate factory and building robots in the basement of his house in rural Ohio. Now living between New York and Moscow after years in The Netherlands, Shanabrook funnels his life’s influences into a unique vision of surreal beauty formed on the threshold of entropy and disaster. His vision comes very close to the edge where one usually turns back. Shanabrook gives a new and often disturbing meaning to substances and forms otherwise associated with comfort, happiness and banality – chocolate, plastic toys and candies.

The work of Stephen Shanabrook is currently, until 25.03.2018 on show in the exhibition Proof of life at the Weserburg Museum in Bremen, presented together with Louise Bourgeois, Berlinde de Bruyckere, Patrick van Caeckenbergh, Jake & Dinos Chapman, George Condo, Anton Corbijn, Thierry de Cordier, Danny Devos, Tracy Emin, Tom Friedman, Line Gulsett, Damien Hirst, Roni Horn, Thomas Houseago, John Isaacs, Sergeij Jensen, Nadav Kander, Anselm Kiefer, Richard Prince, Daniel Richter, Andres Serrano, Gavin Turk and Richard Serra.





*Drunk off my Shitting, Sneezing Lady  
Horse*, 2018, mixed media, pressed  
plastic, 140 x 5 cm,  
€ 14.000,-



*Bleeding 110 Volt Outlet*, 2017,  
mixed media, pressed plastic,  
€ 800,-

*The Elephant*, 2018, mixed media,  
€ 5.000,-



*Fossilized Pavement Battle*, 2017, pressed plastic,  
82 x 72 cm, € 4.800,-



## Daan den Houter (1977, Rotterdam, lives and works in Rotterdam)

The last decade Daan den Houter has invariably managed to put his growing group of admirers on the wrong track. He has an unerring sense of aesthetics, which ensures the first draft of attention and keeps it there. But primarily Den Houter is a conceptual artist. The layers of his art functions like a slight slope - while the spectator at first finds himself staggering, subsequently he regains his balance.

To activate the viewers thinking about important topics like money, identity and values, Den Houter processes humour and sometimes cynicism in his images. The multidisciplinary body of his work shows how much the actual appearance is subordinate to the concept. Not the perfect picture, but the conceptual elaboration is always the starting point of his work.

His work controls and manipulates. Confusion and disturbance is what is left. And maybe eventually a new insight is adopted in the way we assume certain things to be true.

Especially for his Art Rotterdam presentation Den Houter created a new version of his conceptual art work Keep On Dreaming, which is part of his 'Money Works'.

### Keep On Dreaming 2018!

A work about expectations and illusion,  
a work about the future and dreams,  
a work about individuality and togetherness,  
a work about destruction and power.

'Keep On Dreaming 2018' exists of a series of 17 black concrete cubes with dimensions of 13cm x 13cm x 13cm. Each cube includes a signature of the artist, the title and the unique cube number from 1-17. In one of the 17 cubes, there's a copper tube containing 20 notes of € 500, - a total amount of € 10.000, -.

The serial numbers of the notes are:

N46080515667; N15066740136; X09640830287;  
X09001533872; X09505227206; X06658120469;  
X00017787683; X05447518013; X08918350049;  
X09717637304; X03004255649; Z91107098586;  
X09502753322; X06308503193; N48028117215;  
X09717637295; X03113067944; X09332365115;  
X07660465301; X093323651

All 16 other cubes hold a copper tube containing fake money with no notable value.

For only € 1.700, - one could become the owner of one of the 17 elements of the work 'Keep On Dreaming 2018'. Each cube comes with a certificate of authenticity and a warranty that the € 10.000, - is present/located in one of the cubes. This declaration is signed by gallery owners Frank Taal and Leo de Bie, by ir. Piet Vollaard and the artist; Daan den Houter. They were all present at the creation of this artwork.

By purchasing one (or more) cubes of the work 'Keep On Dreaming 2018' one becomes co-owner the whole work 'Keep On Dreaming 2018'. All owners are responsible to maintain the dream and consequently for the survival of the entire work consisting of 17 parts.

*This artwork is about the dream that you have € 10.000, - within reach, trapped in concrete, touchable and yet unattainable. This dream is shared and kept alive by all owners together. What is more valuable than an illusion! 'Keep on dreaming!'*



Daan den Houter

*Keep on Dreaming 2018*

Concrete, copper, Fake money or 20 notes of € 500,-,  
dimensions 13 x 13 x 13 cm

€ 1700,- per piece





Galerie **Frank Taal** is een eigentijdse galerie. Met acht tot tien tentoonstellingen per jaar vertegenwoordigt zij het brede bereik dat de verschillende disciplines uit de hedendaagse kunst bieden. Gevestigd in het Oude Westen in Rotterdam, op steenworp afstand van de Nieuwe Binnenweg centrumzijde, toont Galerie Frank Taal werk van opkomende en internationaal gevestigde kunstenaars. In elke presentatie ligt de nadruk op de totaalbenadering van de tentoonstelling. Gezocht wordt naar de perfecte harmonie of de combinatie van spannende tegenstellingen.

Gallery **Frank Taal** is in every sense a contemporary gallery. The gallery's eight to ten exhibitions per year showcase a broad spectrum of contemporary art disciplines. Gallery Frank Taal continues to find fresh talent, as well as supporting and developing the international careers of the gallery's more established artists. Uniquely, Gallery Frank Taal's presentations are made using a holistic approach, offering either perfect harmony or challenging and dynamic juxtapositions. In 2015 Gallery Frank Taal is elected Best Gallery of The Netherlands.



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