

 In his audiovisual productions Pieter Geenen questions the landscape as a bearer of meaning. He is interested in the suggestive and evocative qualities of the landscape, and geo-political and geo-social realities in particular. How does man relate to the landscape? How do we shape landscape, what traces do we leave, and what do we experience in confrontation with a landscape? In his work the image manifests itself slowly, exploring the subtle and hidden characteristics of things. Listening and watching becomes intense, intimate, alienative, contemplative and almost tangible in the context of an undisturbed stillness. During his residency he wants to examine the iconological value of Mount Ararat and the way it determines and defines the Armenian identity, now and in the past. For this project he will also experiment with narrative elements for the first time.

The Mount Ararat is an important national symbol of Armenia, which is just across the closed border with Turkey. The outcome of this residency will premiere at BE-PART art centre in Waregem (BE) during the spring of 2011.

<http://www.silenceisgolden.be/>

Introduction:

Pieter Geenen (1979) lives and works in Brussels, Belgium. In his work he wants to translate the complexity of a certain geo-political and geo-social reality into a general reflection on the 'innocent' landscape, the landscape as a bearer of meaning. He's interested in the suggestive and evocative qualities of the landscape, by means of its audiovisual characteristics. In a response to an ever faster moving world, and as a resistance to a tendency of demystification, he explores the subtle and 'slow' characteristics of the landscape. In his abstraction of reality he implies a constant, repetitive, but yet static world. Geenen wants to explore the relation between vision and sound, and the vague boundaries of the visible and the audible, tending to move on a thin line between the moving and the static image.

His videos, sound pieces and other installations have been presented, amongst others, at the International Film Festival Rotterdam (NL), Argos Centre for Art and Media (Brussels, BE), New York Film Festival (US), Art Rotterdam (NL), All Art Now International Video Art Festival (Damascus, SY), Images Festival (Toronto, CA), EMAF (Osnabröck, DE), Media City Festival (Windsor, CA), Onion City Festival (Chicago, US), Crosstalk Festival (Budapest, HU), VAD Festival (Girona, ES), Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin/Madrid, and at the Venice Biennial 2009 (IT).

As artist in residence at ACROSS, Pieter Geenen worked on a new project dealing about the mythical mountain Ararat. He was

doing further research on its iconologic value, its determination of Armenian identity, its role in Armenian collective memory and its historical and symbolical value in the region in general. He also spent several days in the Ararat valley to record video and sound for his project, which would premiere at BE-PART art centre in Waregem (BE) during the spring of 2011.

During his presentation he showed 4 of his videos:

- 'gaze (1)', 2003, video 4:3, 12'15', color, stereo, Hi8
- 'nocturne (lampedusa - fort europa)', 2006, video 4:3, 28', black & white, silent, miniDV
- 'atlantis', 2008, video 16:9 (anamorphic), 11', color, stereo, miniDV
- 'nostalgia', 2009, video 16:9, 13', color, stereo, HDV