

Selection of works and projects | 2018 - 2026

Maud van den Beuken (1993, NL)



Where the River Is (June 2025) was an intervention in public space which sediment dredged daily from the Nieuwe Maas in Rotterdam—maintained at navigable depth for shipping by the Port of Rotterdam—was made visible and deposited along the inner-city riverbanks. Each day, 33 million kilograms of sediment are removed from the riverbed and transported away, leaving little room for a non-binary entity such as mud to exist within a society where land and water are defined and categorized.

For one month, this site functioned as a place of distribution and encounter between water management engineers, artists, river enthusiasts and residents. Guided by a team of mud guardians, visitors physically engaged with the sediment by making a carrier bag, becoming temporary guardians of the river. Together, these carrier bags formed a growing installation.

In collaboration with TENT Rotterdam, Port of Rotterdam Authority, Rijkswaterstaat, Placebased, Municipality of Rotterdam, Buitenplaats Brienoord, and Rotterdam Architecture Month.

Photo 1, 2, 3, 5: Ali Haji / Photo 4: Installation view with a cruise ship passing by, Aad Hoogendoorn







Rotterdam

Holland America Line

632

VAN TILBURG

FAMILIEBEDRIJF SINDS 1940

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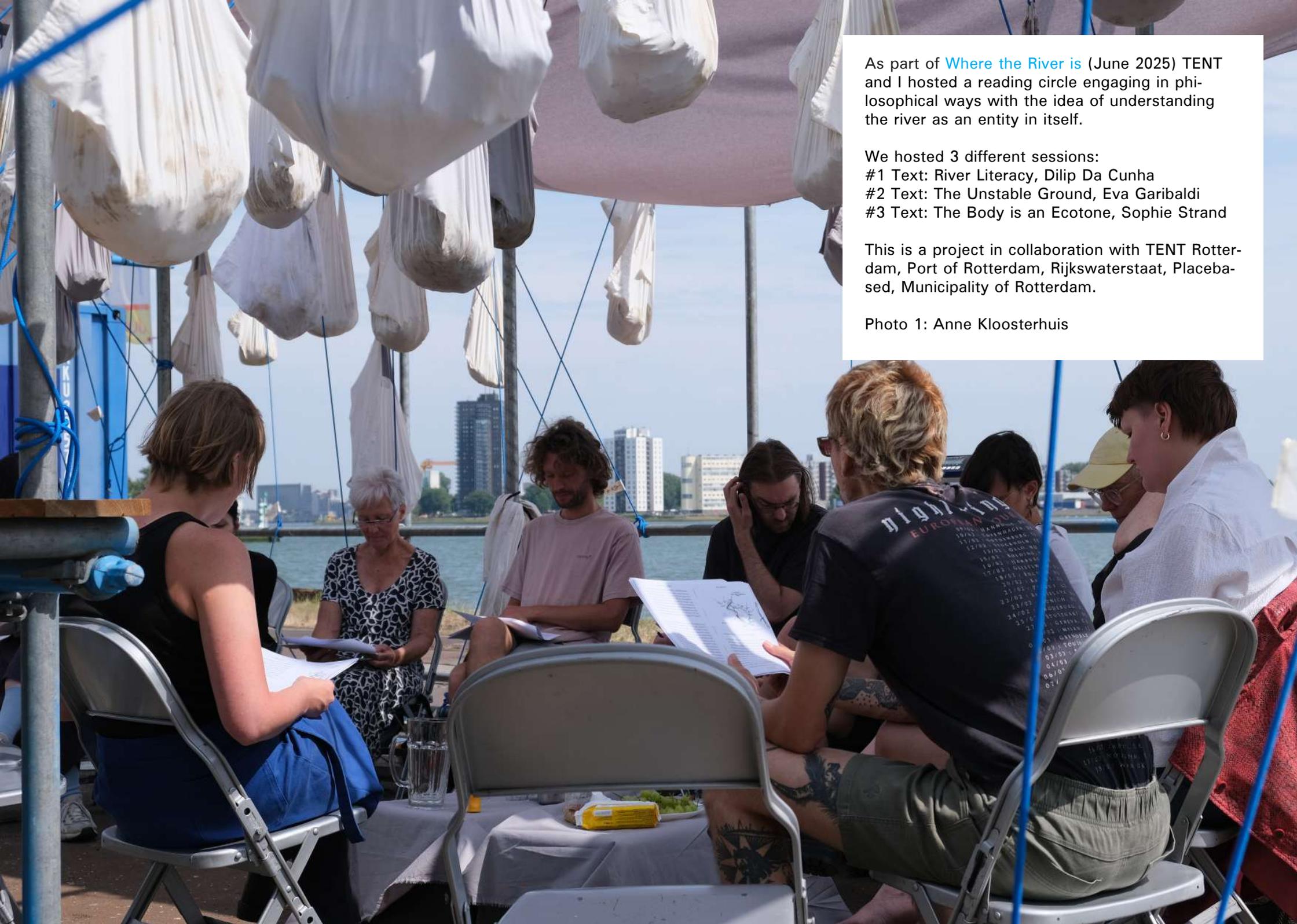
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As part of [Where the River is](#) (June 2025) TENT and I hosted a reading circle engaging in philosophical ways with the idea of understanding the river as an entity in itself.

We hosted 3 different sessions:

#1 Text: River Literacy, Dilip Da Cunha

#2 Text: The Unstable Ground, Eva Garibaldi

#3 Text: The Body is an Ecotone, Sophie Strand

This is a project in collaboration with TENT Rotterdam, Port of Rotterdam, Rijkswaterstaat, Placebased, Municipality of Rotterdam.

Photo 1: Anne Kloosterhuis

As part of [Where the River is](#) (June 2025) TENT and I hosted a program of conversations with experts within the field of water management. Scientists, engineers and academics engaged in conversation with Maud as the moderator, speaking from the perspective of the river and it's sediments.

We hosted 3 different sessions:

#1: Jana Cox, University of Utrecht

#2: Rokus Oskam & Femke Jansen

#3: Han Meijer

This is a project in collaboration with TENT Rotterdam, Port of Rotterdam, Rijkswaterstaat, Placebased, Municipality of Rotterdam.

Photo 1: Anne Kloosterhuis





[We Carry the River](#) (July 2025) was a march concluding the project 'Where the River is' bringing together water management engineers, artists and river residents.

Participants of the march collectively carried the average amount of sediment dredged every second from the river in Rotterdam by the Port of Rotterdam, through the inner city. This march created a moment in which space was claimed for the non-binary entity—mud—which is continuously removed, making land and water appear to exist as two separate entities.

The sediment was carried in carrier bags that had been filled during the preceding month by visitors to the installation 'Where the River Is'.

During the march, all participants were connected to one another as a line moving through the city, guided by a musical rhythm composed by Sophia Bardoutsou, which was blown by six musicians on horns made from the same sediment from the river. Along with the humming voices of the participants, the horns amplified the voice of the river's bed.

This is a project in collaboration with TENT Rotterdam, Port of Rotterdam, Rijkswaterstaat, Placebased, Municipality of Rotterdam.

Video link: <https://youtu.be/uNksRcZj7NY>

Photo 1: Introduction of the march, Ali Haji
Photo 2: March We Carry the River
Photo 3: Sophia with horn during the march, Rik Komaromi









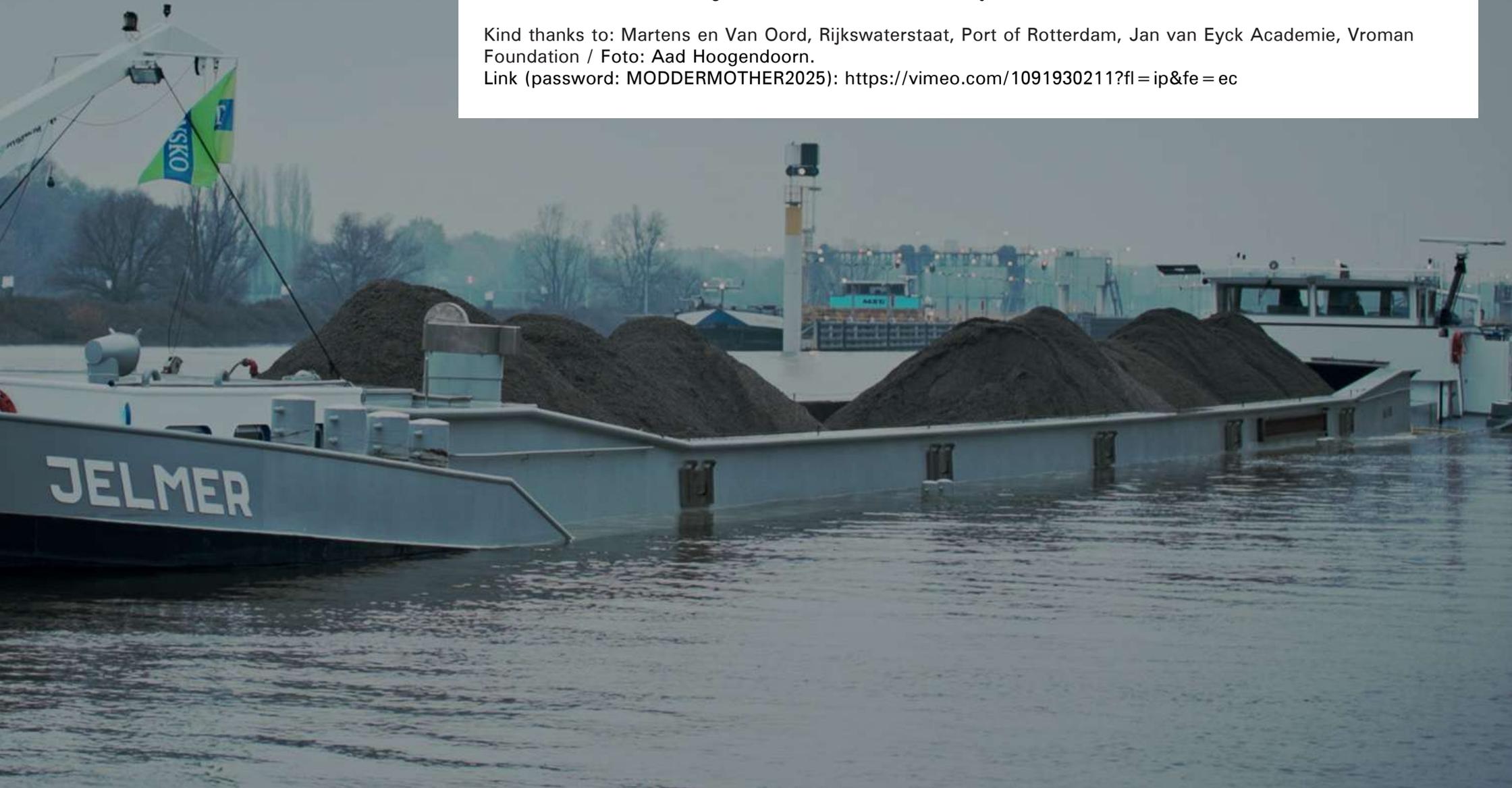
The way in which Western humans have placed themselves outside and above nature is untenable. It turned nature into a resource of which only its use value matters. Would we treat rivers differently if we could see them as part of ourselves?

In this video, [Modder / Mother](#) (2025) Maud returned to the river she knows most intimately: the Maas in Limburg, which ran past her parental home and, with the sediment it brought with it for centuries, shaped the landscape in which she grew up. On board a dredging ship, her camera stands eye to eye with this sediment as it is removed. This personal encounter evokes reflections on reciprocal relationships and mutual interconnectedness. How is the river, that is the carrier of our lives in so many ways, carried by us in turn?

This film was shown during 'Where the River is' hosted by TENT, Rotterdam.

Kind thanks to: Martens en Van Oord, Rijkswaterstaat, Port of Rotterdam, Jan van Eyck Academie, Vroman Foundation / Foto: Aad Hoogendoorn.

Link (password: MODDERMOTHER2025): <https://vimeo.com/1091930211?fl=ip&fe=ec>



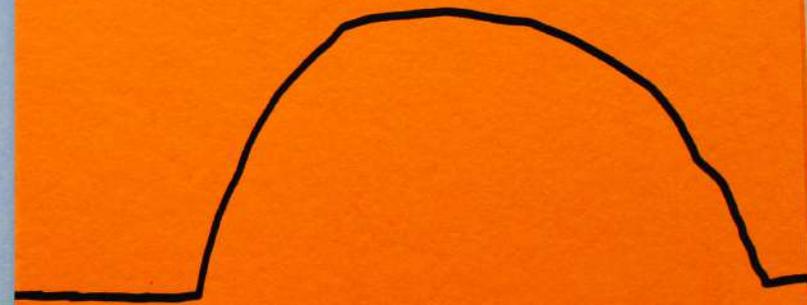
In November 2023, I witnessed how this body of mud was lifted from the water. Within a mere 5 months, 700 million kilos of mud are removed from the bed.

This mud, mother — are you a part of me?



TITLES

Where the river is



er 2022 - October 2023

TITLES Where the river is (2024) archives and narrates my notes, sketches, preparations, recordings and thought experiments sedimented during a 1-year residency at the Jan van Eyck in Maastricht, while researching the Maas river.

Special thanks to the Print & Publishing Lab at the Jan van Eyck, and in particular An Onghena, Margriet Thissen and Ton van de Ven, for creating this book with me.

Made possible with the generous support of the Jan van Eyck and the Arts/Science Residency of the Vroman Foundation.

on with Reinier
an academic
Nations Water

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River. Willow branch /
de Mark Franck taught us, is
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ne banks of the river
the gentle hand-movements of
pepper (biting stonecrop)
y Dayna Casey

LAKE HOME OF FIRST



TITLES Where the river is
By Maaij van den Beuken

The work process over the past year has been able to unfold due to the presence of a remarkable group of people with whom I felt enriched to surround myself. Many thanks to all, each in their very own ways,

to all my fellow participants in the 1st year of '22-'23

to all the 1st advisors, staff and fellows, especially to Bruno Alves de Almeida, Giulia Bellini, Ron Bernsten, Lisebeth Bk, Gregg en Carren, Charles Esche, Mark Franck, Rosa de Graaf, Reince Hoon, Hicham Khalidi, Orlando Manke, An Onghena, Marina Otero, Jos van der Pol, Amanda Sarroff, Wim Sierken, Rebekka Smeetsmans, Margriet Thissen, Ton van de Ven, Rolando Vasquez, Bertrik Klein, Zandvoort

to my loved ones, Ali Hali, Pia van den Beuken, Mandy van den Beuken, Harris van den Beuken

to the external support from Erik van Eikelen (Van Oord, EcoShape), Marco D'Agostino (TU Delft, PortCityFutures), Roy Pijng (Rijkswaterstaat), Carola Heit (TU Delft, PortCityFutures), Bart Hubers (Marrum & Van Oord), Bahroze Karicane (Rijkswaterstaat), Bas Jan Smeit (Marrum & Van Oord), Wouter van der Saag (Deltareis), Jan Veldhuis (Waterschap Vallei en Veluwe), Wim van Vlietoren (Waterschap Vallei en Veluwe)

and to Deltareis, Ecosphere, Gemeente Maastricht, Joeschierma, Marrum & Van Oord, PortCityFutures, Rijkswaterstaat, Van Oord and 150 Jaar Nieuwe Waterweg

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With special thanks to An Onghena and Margriet Thissen

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© Maaij van den Beuken
Maastricht, November 2023

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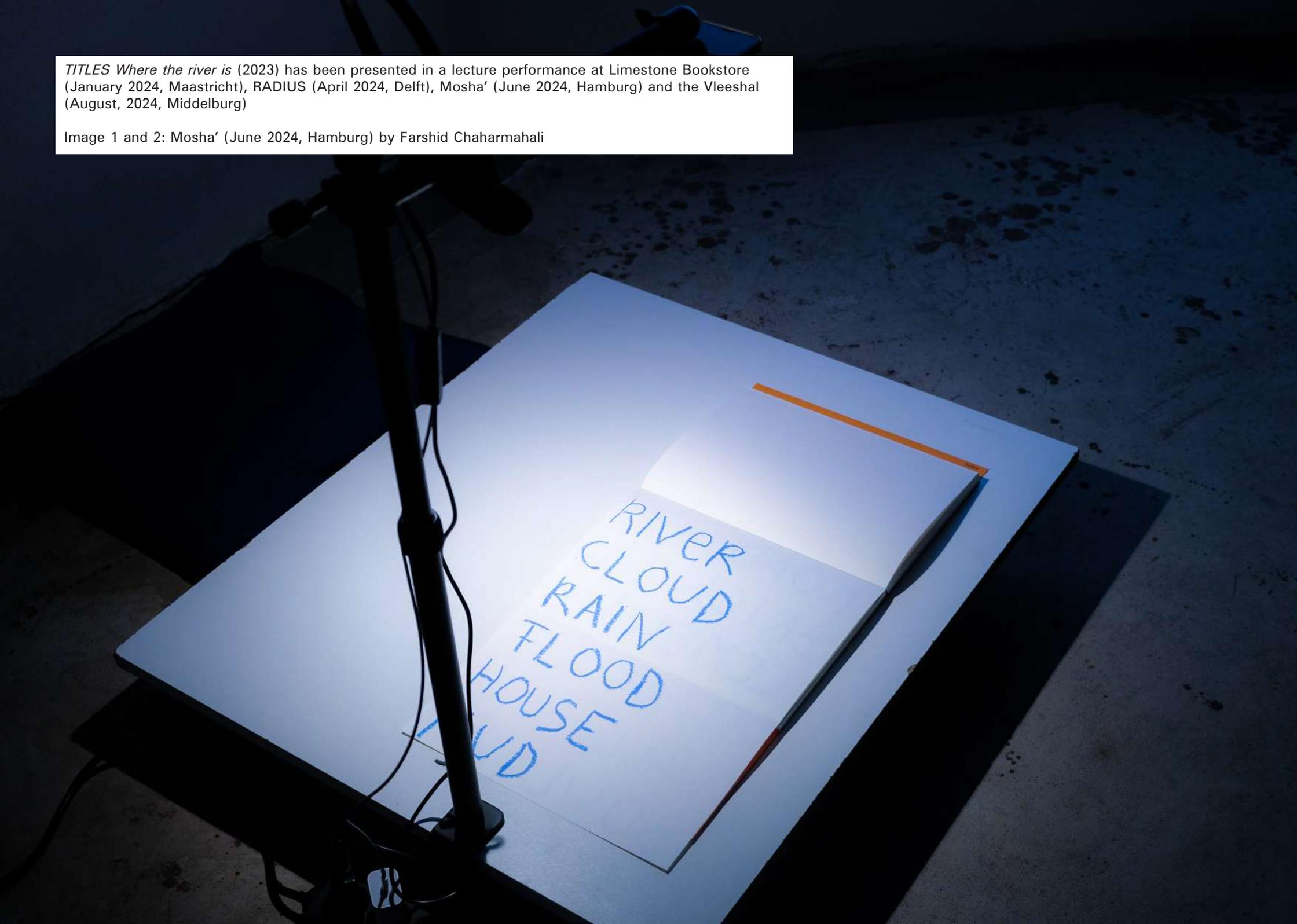
It is an intimate moment, once the river lowers its water level and exposes a part of its interior. I can neither define the reflective thick mass as land, nor as water. It is exactly the mud, which allows us to wonder, doubt and question.

the

This publication archives my notes, sketches, preparations, registrations and thought experiments, which have sedimented over one year. During this time, I did an 11-month residency at the Jan van Eyck Academie in Maastricht.

TITLES Where the river is (2023) has been presented in a lecture performance at Limestone Bookstore (January 2024, Maastricht), RADIUS (April 2024, Delft), Moshah' (June 2024, Hamburg) and the Vleeshal (August, 2024, Middelburg)

Image 1 and 2: Moshah' (June 2024, Hamburg) by Farshid Chaharmahali



RIVER
CLOUD
RAIN
FLOOD
HOUSE
FLOOD

Fermenting river (2023) is a 3-day canoeing expedition along the Maas river which I co-organized and conceptualized.

While following the river's stream we observed and foraged the river's plants, which seeds have been carried along its banks. Sharing and experiencing the river as a common ground and place of resource, taught us about the river as a living environment among a multispecies society.

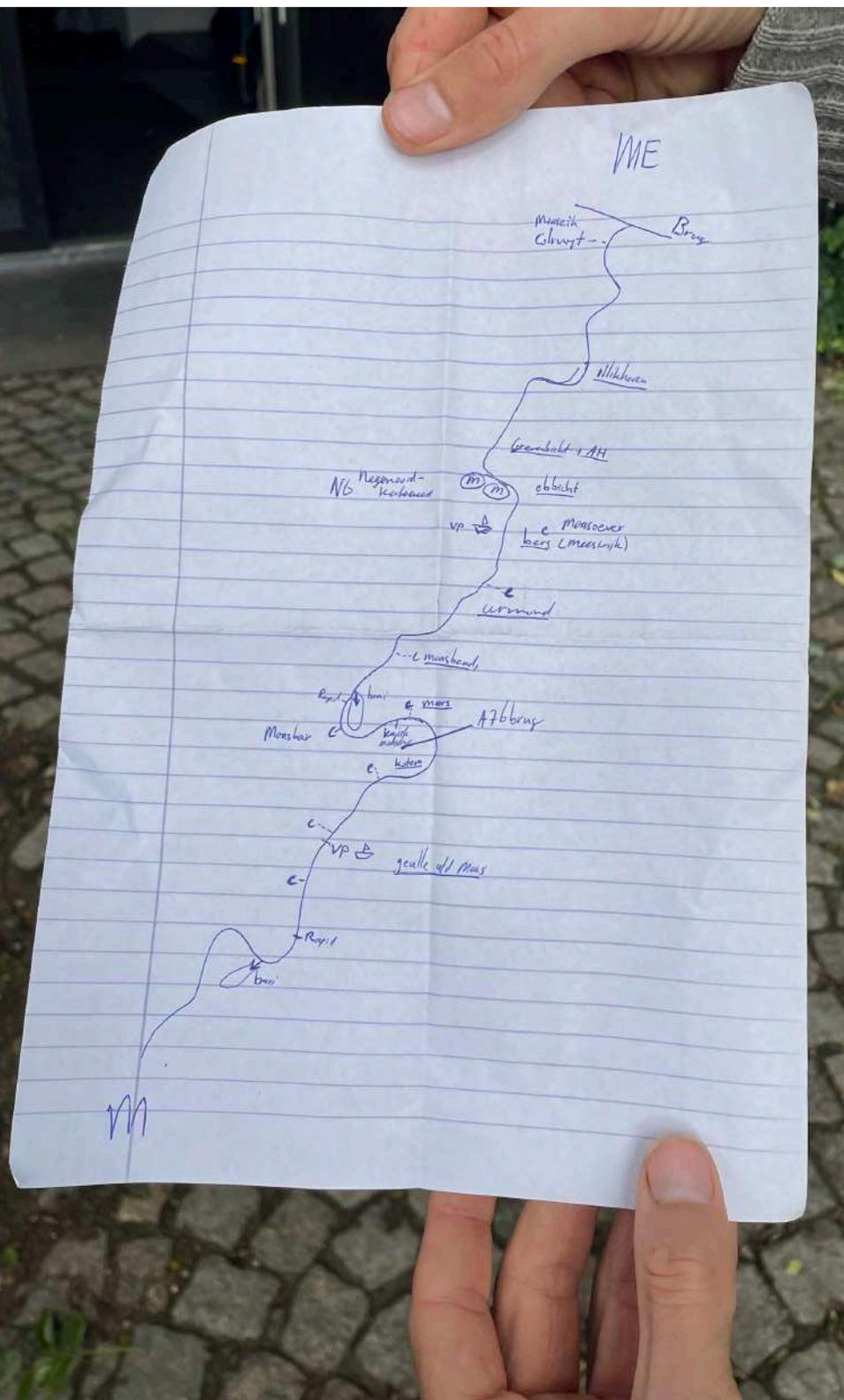
By applying different methods of food preservation and fermentation to the harvest, the river will be celebrated as a generous carrier and sharing ground among a wider group of participants during a meal and a program of readings, along the banks of the Maas, in September 2023.

External guest: Mark Franck (foraging expert)
With Jan van Eyck participants: Dayna Casey, Sumugan Sivanesan, Arpita Akhanda, Jonas Palekas, Kristin Wiking, Reetu Sattar, Anastasia Eggers, Hye Joo Jun, Rhett Leinster.

Supported by the Jan van Eyck.

Images 1, 2, 3: all taken along the Maas river.
Image 4, 5: Jan van Eyck, fermenting river, meal event







Once we were river, (2023)
12-minute film

Through an intimate portrait of the interior of water pumping station Laag Helbergen and a voice-over, the viewer becomes an active participant in the intertwined relation between land and water.

In the IJsselbiennial the film is screened on an LED-screen in the outdoors, looking out over the water pumping station. Also the film was exhibited during the Open Studios at Jan van Eyck, as part of an installation alongside freshly dredged sludge from the Maas river, spread around the room in spotlighted black buckets.

Link: <https://vimeo.com/844321801?share=cop>
Password: ONCEWEWERERIVER2023

Image 1: installation view, Open Studios Jan van Eyck.
June 2023

Image 2: still film

Image 3: detail. Open Studios Jan van Eyck. June 2023

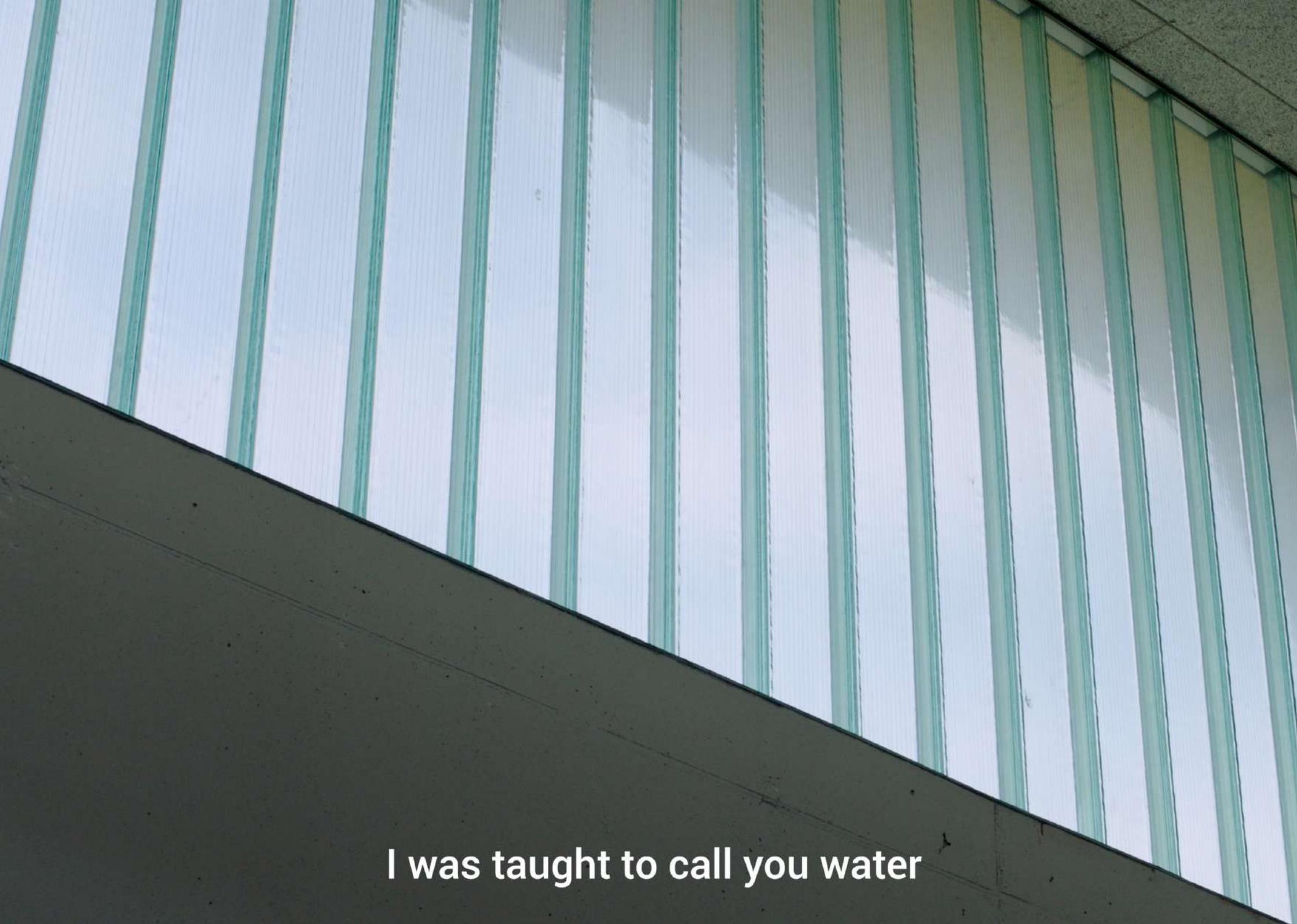
Image 4: Installation view. IJsselbiennale 2023

Image 5: Installation view. IJsselbiennale 2023

Image 6: Installation view. IJsselbiennale 2023

Image 7: Installation view. IJsselbiennale 2023

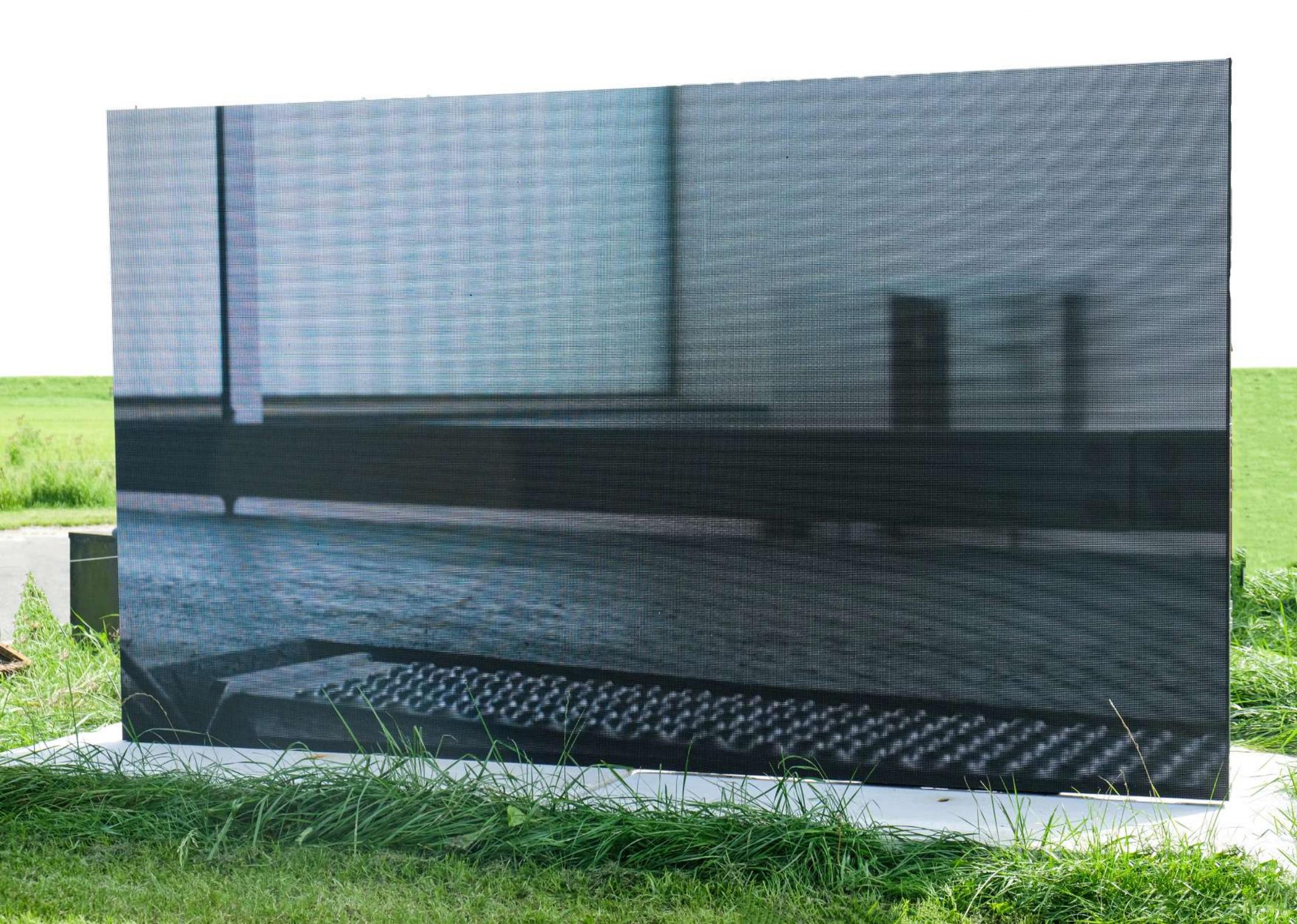




I was taught to call you water







Both softly and brutally



Groot Water reist langs de Nieuwe Maas (2022)
4-week event in public space

For four weeks in October 2022, the work *Big Water* (2021) travelled along the Maas river, activating four different locations along its banks in Rotterdam.

Rotterdam being one of the biggest port cities in Europe, has an ambivalent relation to the river. In four events, inviting an interdisciplinary network around the river, our relation with the river on both a local and global scale was critically examined. Who bears responsibility?

Each location hosted a programme of content, engaging with policymakers, artists, environmentalists, residents, water management experts and dredgers. Together we explored the Nieuwe Maas, as a fellow entity, and the possibility of her own legal personhood.

This series of conversations formed the basis for a long-term artistic investigation into human appropriation of the river, in relation to listening to the river's language.

Guests: Mark van Koningsveld (professor. Ports & Waterways | Van Oord, TU Delft), Esther Blom (ARK Natuurontwikkeling), Eric van der Schans (director Environmental Management, Port of Rotterdam), Monique Marijnissen (senior landscape designer, municipality of Rotterdam), Klaas Kuitenbrouwer (initiator Zoöp and researcher Het Nieuwe Instituut)
Moderator: Renee Rooijmans

Supported by 150 Years New Waterway and CBK Rotterdam
Video: <https://www.cbkrotterdam.nl/nieuws/film-groot-water-reist-langs-de-nieuwe-maas/>

Image 1: *Big Water / Groot Water travels along the Nieuwe Maas*, 2022. Photo by Pia van den Beuken
Image 2, 3, 4: description underneath image.

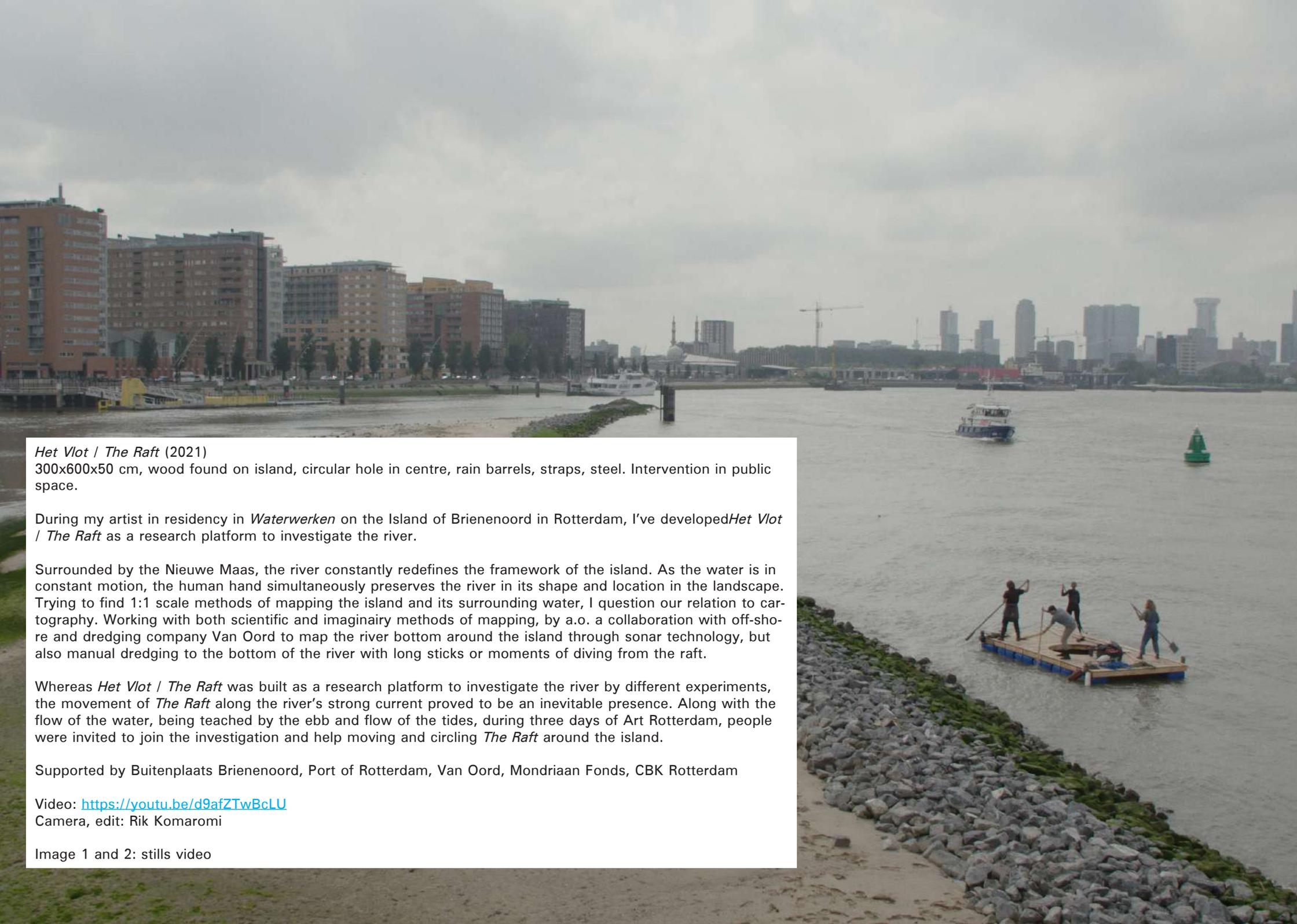




Big Water / Groot Water travels along the Nieuwe Maas, 2022. In collaboration with CBK Rotterdam and 150 Years New Waterway. Location: De Maaskantine, Rotterdam. Participatory conversation. Moderator: Renee Rooijmans. Image by Loes van Duijvendijk.



Big Water / Groot Water travels along the Nieuwe Maas, 2022. In collaboration with CBK Rotterdam and 150 Years New Waterway.
Location: Schiehaven, Rotterdam. Speakers: Eric van der Schans (Havenbedrijf Rotterdam), Klaas Kuitenbrouwer (HNI), Monique Marijnissen (Stadsontwikkeling 010), Maud van den Beuken (kunstenaar). Moderator: Renee Rooijmans. Image by Loes van Duijvendijk



Het Vlot / The Raft (2021)

300x600x50 cm, wood found on island, circular hole in centre, rain barrels, straps, steel. Intervention in public space.

During my artist in residency in *Waterwerken* on the Island of Brienenoord in Rotterdam, I've developed *Het Vlot / The Raft* as a research platform to investigate the river.

Surrounded by the Nieuwe Maas, the river constantly redefines the framework of the island. As the water is in constant motion, the human hand simultaneously preserves the river in its shape and location in the landscape. Trying to find 1:1 scale methods of mapping the island and its surrounding water, I question our relation to cartography. Working with both scientific and imaginary methods of mapping, by a.o. a collaboration with off-shore and dredging company Van Oord to map the river bottom around the island through sonar technology, but also manual dredging to the bottom of the river with long sticks or moments of diving from the raft.

Whereas *Het Vlot / The Raft* was built as a research platform to investigate the river by different experiments, the movement of *The Raft* along the river's strong current proved to be an inevitable presence. Along with the flow of the water, being taught by the ebb and flow of the tides, during three days of Art Rotterdam, people were invited to join the investigation and help moving and circling *The Raft* around the island.

Supported by Buitenplaats Brienenoord, Port of Rotterdam, Van Oord, Mondriaan Fonds, CBK Rotterdam

Video: <https://youtu.be/d9afZTwBcLU>

Camera, edit: Rik Komaromi

Image 1 and 2: stills video



Groot Water (2021)

1.070 x 50 x 229 cm, CNC-milled EPS, UV polyurethane coating, steel

The work *Groot Water* (2021) is a 1:1 replica of a cross section of the Mississippi river water volume. To preserve the shape of the river at its source, I scanned the bottom of the river with sonar technology, in collaboration with dredging contractor Van Oord. This work is an echo of the work *One to One (Mississippi River)* (2020).

Commissioned by Beelden in Leiden, 2021.

Supported by Van Oord (NL), R2Sonic (TX, US), Fugro Marinestar (NL/US), USGS (LA, US), NOLAGEO (LA, US), The Water Institute (LA, US), Ardaman and Associates (LA, US), Mondriaan Fund (NL), CBK Rotterdam (NL), Fonds Kwadraat (NL), Beelden in Leiden (NL).

Image 1: Installation view. Beelden in Leiden 2021. Sculpture route curated by Suzanne Wallinga. Photo: LNDW studio.



Carrying the size of Hilton (2020)

2500 x 10 x 10 cm. Concrete, steel. Single day spatial intervention.

A 25 metre long concrete pillar, as long as the diagonal length of the interior space of Hilton Hotel, was casted on site. Visitors became participants by carrying the pillar outside of the space. Maneuvering through the busiest part of the city center, the interior space of the Hilton Hotel was measured against the exterior space of Rotterdam.

Supported by Hilton Art Lab and CBK Rotterdam.

Video: <https://vimeo.com/469440854> Password: Hilton2020

Camera and edit by Pia van den Beuken

Image 1: Marieke van der Lippe

Image 2, 3: Hilde Speet





One to One (Mississippi River) (2017 - 2020)
1076 x 50 x 180 cm. CNC milled EPS, coating.

As the Mississippi River (US) overflows on one side, the Kaveri River (IN) evaporates on the exact opposite side of the earth. After following both rivers on foot, this work developed. This work is a 1:1 scale duplicate of a cross-section of one of the longest and largest rivers on earth, the Mississippi river at its source.

In October 2019, I traveled with survey expert Wim Balvert, employed by dredging and off-shore contractor Van Oord (NL), to the source area where the Mississippi rises: in Minnesota. From a boat, we 3D scanned the river bottom in 3D. Using multibeam equipment, we emitted a sonar signal that mapped the bottom of the river.

Supported by Van Oord (NL), R2Sonic (TX, US), Fugro Marinestar (NL/US), USGS (LA, US), NOLAGEO (LA, US), The Water Institute (LA, US), Ardaman and Associates (LA, US), Mondriaan Fund (NL), CBK Rotterdam (NL), Fonds Kwadraat (NL).

Image 1: Installation view. Prospect & Concepts, Art Rotterdam 2020. Van Nellefabriek, Rotterdam. By Luuk Smits
Image 2: Installation view, in four equal pieces. IS PAS D'ESPACE. PARK, Tilburg. 2021. Photo by Henk Geraedts.
Image 3-6: Research images



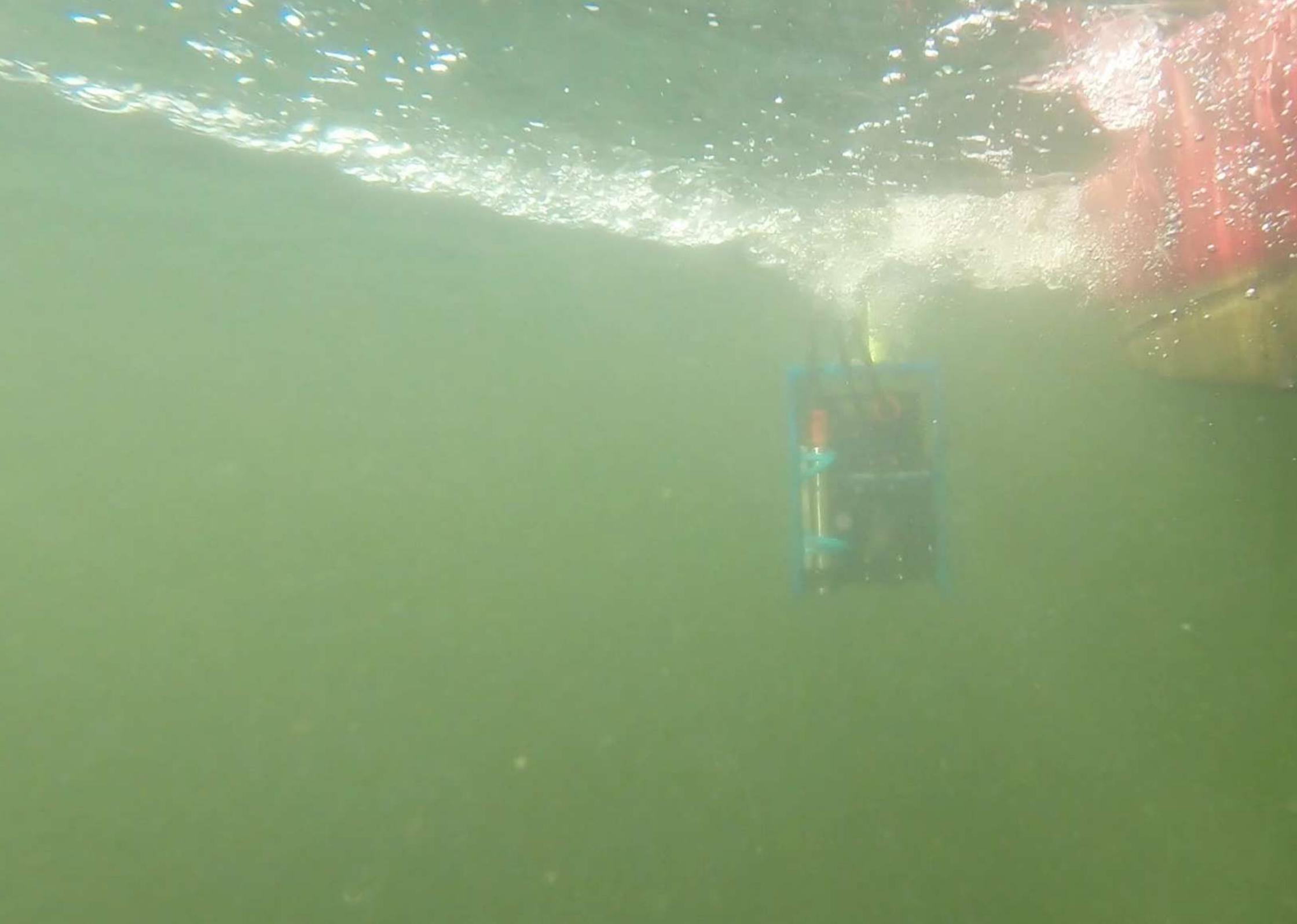


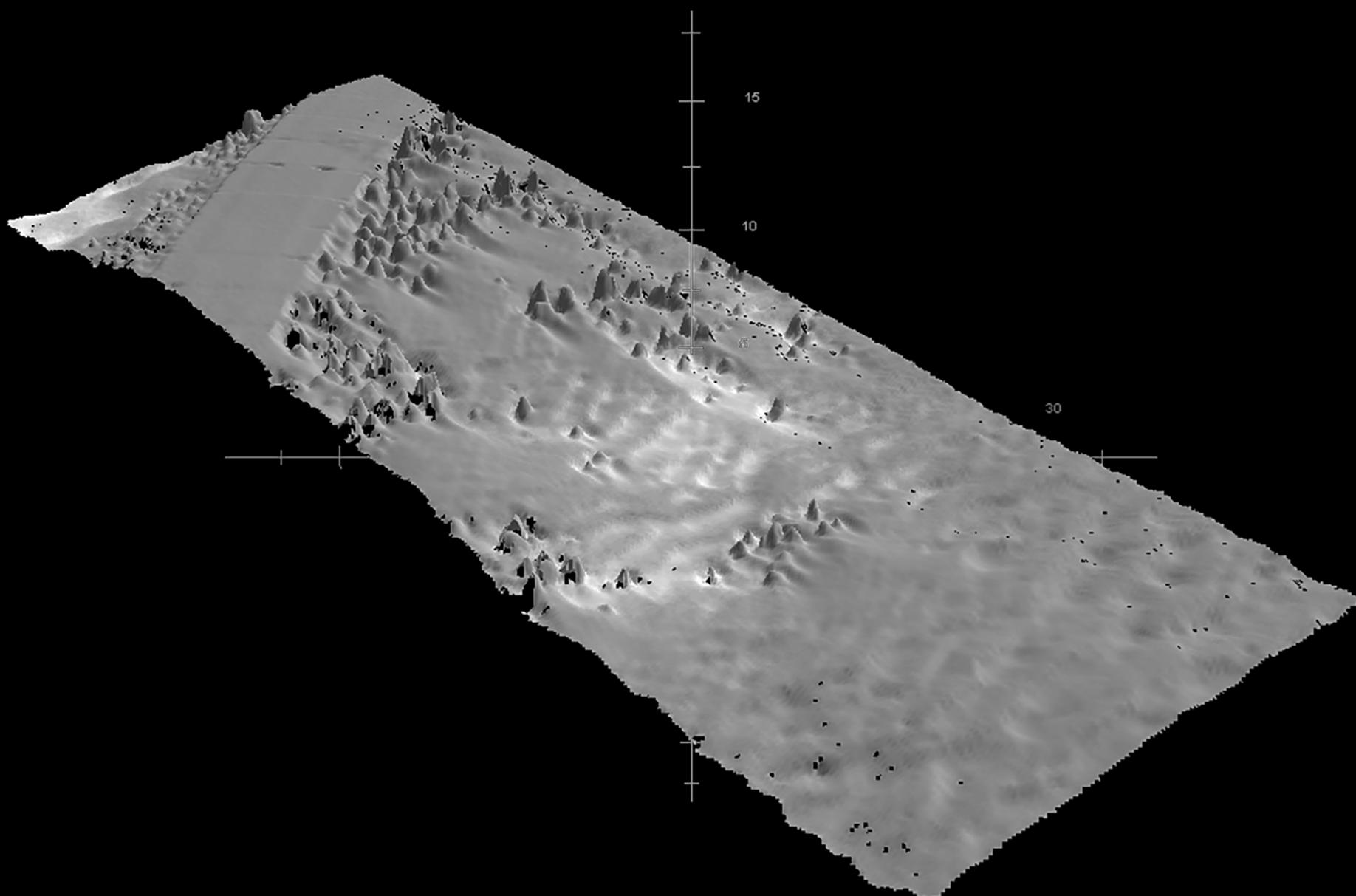


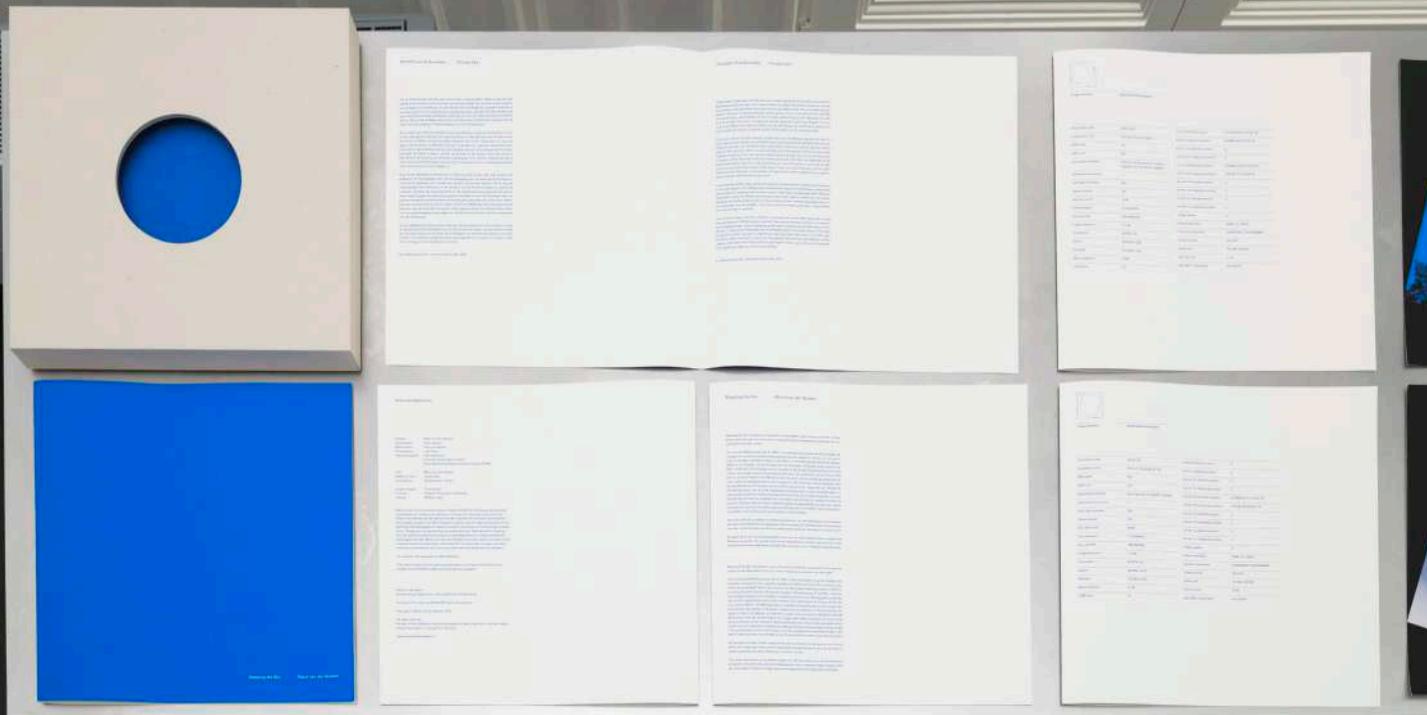
The project *One to One (Mississippi River)* (2020) came about as a result of two trips where Van den Beuken followed two rivers on foot: in 2017 the Kaveri in India and exactly on the other side of the earth, at the same latitude, in 2018 the Mississippi in the United States of America. Upon arriving at the river in India, the entire river was found to contain no water due to persistent drought. In contrast, the Mississippi River in America contains an excessive amount of water. It is precisely the Mississippi that Van den Beuken was barely able to observe, due to the enormously high walls and dikes surrounding the river, which manage to keep the water in its bed.

Besides the fact that these phenomena in the landscape are much discussed as being climate change, I looked at it in a very sculptural way. From a curiosity for our geographical environment, I wondered how the volume of water fits into its bed. By literally picking up the river and taking it with me, I tried to understand its shape and our relation to it. Can we preserve a rivers landscape?

Image 3, 4, 5: While 3D scanning the Mississippi river, Minnesota (US) 2019. By Pia van den Beuken.
Image 6: Detail 3D scan, Mississippi river bottom. Van Oord.







Mapping the Sky (2015 - 2018)
38 x 38 x 10 cm. Edition: 8 photoprints, metadata, coordination system, cardboard box

Mapping the Sky is a cartographic investigation into defining the sky as a space in itself. Besides maps of the stars, air pressure or flight maps, never before has the sky been mapped as space in itself.

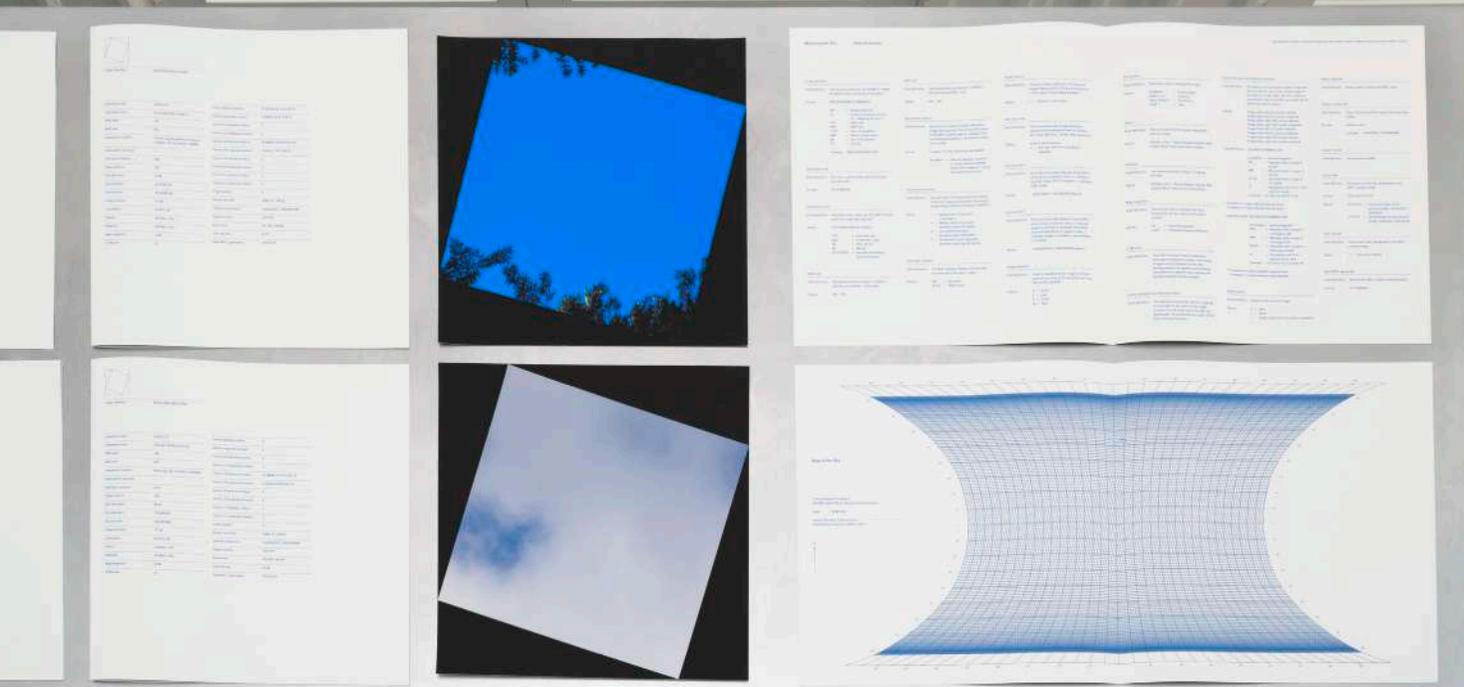
For two years Van den Beuken collaborated with cartographer Falco Joosten (UvA), and developed a mapping method. A mirrored simulation of the most widely used satellite, used to map the land: Landsat 8 (NASA, USGS), was made in collaboration with Hasselblad and a mathematician. From the land, the sky above the Netherlands was captured at exactly the same times and locations as the satellite does from the land. For this they travelled to 8 different coordinates in the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and on the North Sea. The images take place in a coordinate system and projection model developed alongside this project.

In collaboration with cartographer Falco Joosten, mathematician Peter van Kessel and photographer Luuk Smits.

Graphic design by Titus Knegtel

Supported by ESRI Netherlands, European Space Agency (ESA), KNMI, Hasselblad, CBK Rotterdam, Budgetcam and EENWERK.

Images 1, 2, 3: Installation view. Solo exhibition at EENWERK, 2018. Peter Cox.



* The edition *Mapping the Sky* (on the images left) is part of the cartographic archive at Utrecht University Library, Special Collections department.

* Video about Mapping the Sky: <https://www.maud-vandenbeuken.nl/mapping-the-sky>
Made by Mirjam Somers and Bas Czerwinski, commissioned by CBK Rotterdam.



Mapping the Sky (2018)

Three-channel video installation. 15 minutes.

Mapping the Sky is, parallel to its edition, also a three-channel video installation, following a journey to 8 different coordinates over land and sea, mapping the sky covering the Netherlands. Each of these 8 moments captures a meeting between the eye of the satellite and the human being. A brief contact between sky and land, while capturing the cloudy skies of October in 2016.

The eight coordinates were located in the calculated center points of each satellite image. This journey brought us to two places at the North Sea, two in Belgium, two in The Netherlands and two in Germany.

This three channel video installation is watched in parallel speed with the satellite orbiting the Earth.

Video by Patrice Winfield.

Supported by CBK Rotterdam, Budgetcam and EENWERK.

Link video: <https://vimeo.com/317555714?share=copy> Password: mappingthesky2018_MVDB
Images 1, 2: stills video. Camera: Patrice Winfield

10:34:11,24



10:39:48,40