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MARIJN VAN KREIJ - MEANING MAKING
WITH A CONTRIBUTION BY IT IS PART OF AN ENSEMBLE
17.4 - 20.5.2024

NOTES ON THE EXHIBITION:

A manifesto of intent is built on a set of assumptions. One is of conviction, of an interest in making meaning out of something, and with dedication and purpose to make that meaning make sense, however minuscule, mundane, and trivial.

Art, as a form of meditative practice, allows this search of meaning to take place, all the while providing a glimpse of these inner workings and perhaps connecting them to larger philosophical questions.

To be able to make art work with this hyper sense of clarity, takes time. A willing artist would have to embark on a journey of discovery, eyes away from the audience, market, noise, turning oneself inwards. Like Caspar David Friedrich's Wanderer, towards history and the self.

To be able to read this kind of artwork as an audience, also takes time. Per metaphor, we can only see the back of the figure, wondering what of the nature Friedrich's Wanderer sees.

Because it might not be of nature at all, but of Spinoza's natura naturata. A certain law of nature in nature that guides the things that are, thus becomes.

Marijn van Kreij had spent many times looking at how other artists had looked. He also had spent many a time looking at how he himself looked. In fact, we are to accompany him, to continue to learn how to look, over and over.

To make meaning is to learn what meaning is.

Some doubled down and circled back (Bruce Nauman); order from chaos (John Cage); make more to see less (Agnes Martin); untangle what can only be said as tangled (Brice Marden). An innate yearning for meaning and an anthropic desire to try to make some sense of it.

For Van Kreij, looking beyond the doubling, the recalling, the Rorschach-isque storytelling, is to make connections with disconnectedness. To let it be what it already is, and can be.

Art as looking for matsutake, 松茸/マツタケ.

Joseph Tang, february 2024

Our intention is to affirm this life, not to bring order out of chaos nor to suggest improvements in creation, but simply to wake up to the life we're living, which is so excellent once one gets one's mind and one's desires out of its way and lets it act of its own accord. - John Cage