

LUMEN TRAVO

...AND THE WIND OF HISTORY SINGS IN ME...

RINI HURKMANS

OPENING: 12TH SEPTEMBER 2015, 17:00 – 19:00

EXHIBITION: 12TH SEPTEMBER -17TH OCTOBER 2015



It is with great pleasure that Gallery Lumen Travo announces the solo show of Rini Hurkmans. Her exhibition shows three installations, which are inextricably linked: *Don Quixote - the Flag of Compassion*, *Flag Prayer* and *The Colours – Homeland (Part XI)*. All works stem from and are part of the artwork *Flag of Compassion*.

Flag of Compassion (2002-present) is a conceptual artwork that functions both within the field of the arts and in society as a whole. The work consists of the word (compassion), an instrument (a flag), a foundation (Unda Foundation) and a distribution network including the website www.flagofcompassion.com. The work explores how the idea of compassion operates in our society. This work contains an important paradox: a flag, a tool used to distinguish oneself from others, and the notion of compassion, the capacity to feel a deep sense of equality. This tension between differentiation and equality that seems irreconcilable is the conceptual core of the artwork.

The film installation *Don Quixote - the Flag of Compassion* refers to the book of Cervantes. The book

describes the clash between the ideal and fictional world (of Don Quixote) and the real world. It is a classic contrast of mind versus body, reason versus desire and ideals versus reality. The work also refers to a historical tradition from the South of the Netherlands, wherein flag twirlers wave certain patterns with a flag, symbolically expressing the fight against evil and injustice.

The text based installation *Flag Prayer* deals with the notion that the choreography of the patterns waved by the flag twirler, is rooted in a prayer.

In the work *The Colours - Homeland, Part XI* tension between differentiation and equality is investigated. The work queries and responds, on an aesthetic and ethical level, to today's need for individuals and communities to identify themselves with specific nationalistic colours.

With her solo show, Hurkmans confronts us with reflections on the continuation of historical traditions and national identity formation in an increasingly globalized and multicultural world.

