

BOTANIEK concept of the artist Veerle Michiels and Jonas Vansteenkiste.

The proposition Botaniek starts from the 'relational aesthetics' from Nicolas Bourriaud where cultural and social structures in which we live are examined by artists. The artwork 'materializes into a relationship with the world'. This kind of relationship detaches the participant from the usual cultural codes of behaviour. Botaniek introduces atypical co-workers, as constructed identities in the form of 'herb clusters' with a virtual identity such as Valeri An. These new BOTANIEK CO-WORKERS, just like all other users, demand their place in the co-workspace and regularly get into contact with their colleagues. In this way 'a micro-utopia' appears. It enables the co-workers to find other forms of interaction, common ground and different ways of working. These focused activities are not meant to overthrow the prevalent logic but want to be part of it or form a contrast with it.

In their common work Jonas Vansteenkiste and Veerle Michiels are looking for contextual challenges. They start from the chances and limitations of a place and get into conversation with it or look for activation. They examine a form which creates an immersive experience for visitors and users. Their intervention is meant to start an active dialogue between the audience, the user and the creation.