

Nico Parlevliet - Regenpijplanken

In the inner city of Dordrecht, most downspouts are made of steel, due to the fact that plastic pipes are easily vandalised.

The advantage of this fact is that it is possible to take stock of how these drainpipes all sound.

And that is exactly what makes this concept within the Nieuwstraat Festival interesting.

Indeed, the task is to find a drainpipe armed with a key, or some other object made of iron, place yourself pontifically in front of it, put your phone on audio-recording and tap the drainpipe in three places, once as low to the ground as possible, the second time at stomach level and the third time as high as possible.

After that, immediately turn off the audio recording.

Then walk to the next drainpipe and repeat the above actions.

Nieuwstraat runs from the Vest to Voorstraat. First, walk down the downspouts on the right side of the street all together before turning around to do the pipes on the left side. Eventually you will arrive at the point, where you started in the street and that will be the end of your performance.

For good measure, it is also possible that the performance is done by two people, one then concentrates entirely on making it sound and the other can then pay full attention to recording the sound.



Audio file: Regenpijplanken

Reports:

Nazli:

I created the sound with Sifra. Actually, she created the sound and I recorded it with Nico's recorder. Together we explored the sounds of the pipes in Nieuwstraat. Some were made of steel, others of steel and plastic. The material of the pipes changed depending on whether they were in use or not. I also thought: oh, we really have a lot of pipes to make sounds with, even though it was a reasonable number of pipes. It remained interesting to walk along the pipes and explore them.

The best part, however, was getting to know Sifra better by walking and making sounds on the pipes.

Sifra:

When we started I thought "this is going to be a lot of drainpipes", but it turned out to be less than 30. Some pipes sounded really nice and metallic, some looked metal but sounded dull. We also sometimes had a plastic pipe.

A woman looked at us, frowning, and stopped walking to see what we were doing.

Another woman who worked in a coffee bar came outside, laughed and said "what are you doing"? I said "we tikken" (we tap) and she said "ok, helemaal getikt" (completely nuts). Funny. There was a wedding reception at the terrace and we tapped on the pipes there too. The guests looked up but did not respond further.



Photo Nico Parlevliet