

Nico Parlevliet - Bird

Previously Nieuwstraat must have seen and heard much more nature than what the street looks like today. In some places in the street saplings have been planted along the curb.

Find a suitable tree on the street or find a place where you are convinced that there was once a tree. Stand in that spot and make the sound of a bird.

You are free to choose how you produce the sound. Mimicking a bird sound yourself is preferred, but it is also good if you play a bird sound from your mobile phone.

ieke Trink, June 20, 2020, 10:05 to 10:25 AM / 10:50 to 11:00 AM

Although I never worked on my bird sound vocabulary, I anyway went into this task. For sure this was clearly something that wouldn't go unnoticed, and so I was mentally preparing myself for become the idiot in the street. Don't take me wrong, I love the idiot, like Dostoevsky's Idiot. When you are going to perform someone else's concept, you have to find your own believe in it. I was not sure yet of what my believe was about for creating the bird sounds, while standing fully exposed behind a young tree. I started making sounds with my voice and whistled. I was holding the tree with my both hands and decided that this was a normal thing to do. A man, who was reading on the sidewalk, moved inside. I looked up into the tree looking for communication while making my sounds. I started hearing other bird sounds coming from the nearby streets, and started to imitate them. At some point I stayed with one whistling sound, and it really felt for a moment that I was in dialogue with one of the neighbourhood's birds. Then I abruptly left, and after 25 minutes came back to the same tree, seeing this as my new territory, and continued my bird sounds for another 10 minutes.

Malou van Doormaal

In my search for a suited location I realised the pavement repressed all the potential green. I chose a spot next to an opening where a tree grew. I imagined the plants were stronger than the paving stones and a forest aroses.

I'm not very comfortable with my whistle skills, so I imitated a nest with newborn bird. I also tried to sing as a young bird is trying. The squeaking sounded like something which could occur in that place, so I continued with that.

After a while I tested out how a digital presence of birds would sound like. I listened to the songs of owls like the eagle-owl and a nuthatch. I really enjoyed the last one, it was a familiar but impossible sound at that location. I walked slowly across the square, with the nuthatch on repeat.

Nico Parlevliet

It was a strange feeling to carry out your own performance concept. At the start I felt a bit embarrassed but that was over when a pigeon responded to my sounds.

Louwrens Botha

The tree stands at the corner of the Statenplein. It is tall but looks young. An adolescent tree, then. The bird I imitate is one of the tortelduiwe that I used to hear outside my window as a child. My self-conscious koer-koerr is the sound of sleeping in on a Sunday morning in Somerset West. It is morning sun on the white walls of Leccino Terrace 14.

Frans van Lent

I did this performance in the evening. The street was noisy with people drinking and shouting. I used a recording on my phone and looked around as if I had nothing to do with that. The birds sounded very mechanical.