

Andrew McNiven: **The Artist Will Be Present (Proxy Version) 2021**

The artist Andrew McNiven to be present (by proxy) in Dordrecht for the 2e Nieuwstraat Festival on 19 June 2021.

Outline:

2020 and 2021 have been years in which absence has predominated; the aim of this work is to be present. To do this, the artist Andrew McNiven has designated the artist Peter Baren as his proxy, to be present in Dordrecht on the day of the Festival in June 2021. This presence to be an affirmation of the importance of presence in the practices of everyday life.

Others' knowledge of this presence is sufficient to allow the work to be deemed complete. This text affirms this knowledge.

Peter:

THE ARTIST IS PRESENT was carried out by yours truly during the entire day as proxy for Andrew McNiven who, due to travel limitations caused by the corona pandemic, could not feature himself during the festival.

Along the day I encountered both the volunteers and artists carrying out a great variety of actions anonymously in and around the Nieuwstraat in between passers-by, giving them winks of an eye or used seats to smoothly multiply their behaviour...with books and laughter or people gazing at a large piece of building plastic tied to a gutter blowing in the wind, in front of a blind wall...

It was a multi-layered day with fine examples of, I dare say, sometimes both noticed and unnoticed actions one way or another...