

WIM GEEVEN

ARSENALE

24.04 - 22.05.2021

Assembled by

HAN VAN DER VEN & LOTTE GEEVEN

Wim Geeven is a poet who happens to be a builder. Inside his garage in the harbour city of Antwerp, soft construction works sound throughout the day.

Here blueprints dreamt up in the middle of the night are being built. While outside in the streets bricklayers are busying themselves with their task Geeven's saw cuts sidewalk findings into strips and plates them. These are assembled into light structures that house the city's voice. As they rise up from his working bench they speak loud and clear. Market voices shout out of the wood of orange boxes and street mumblings echo between beams held together by hot glue and nails. Together they form dwellings for the restless; always in a state of flux; with an apartment for a vagrant and a room a bright dream. Geeven's arsenal of buildings lines up on the periphery, a place where architecture ends and life begins.

JOEY RAMONE

For more than five decades Wim Geeven has been developing a continuous expanding body of work. Central to his oeuvre are his poetic objects, which oscillate between sculptural and architectural, between recognisable and indefinable entities. They recall a multitude of images without actually converging with any in particular. This might explain what makes them so appealing: no matter how much these objects might resemble a building, a mountain, a butterfly, a skeleton, a tree trunk or an aeroplane, they simultaneously diverge from them. They are ambiguous, enigmatic in an intriguing way. They escape our quasi-spontaneous urge to give things a name. They take a life and a role on their own as if they are made to belong to a world where they become the protagonists. We, the spectators are invited to enter this world, to let ourselves free to interact with the objects, even to be puzzled, to try to demystify them or simply be with them, let our gaze wonder and let their scale, from large to tiny, guide us physically and mentally close, more far or around them.

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