

DECEMBER BOOKSHOP:
THE BOOK AS ART AND VISION BY JAP SAM BOOK
3 DECEMBER — 22 DECEMBER 2021

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SIXTYEIGHT ART INSTITUTE

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SixtyEight Art Institute and **Really Simple Syndication Press** are delighted to host our next December Bookshop, by welcoming to Copenhagen for the first time the Prinsenbeek-based press, **Jap Sam Books**.

They will offer their new and back catalogue of books throughout this month-long pop-up bookstore, called The Book as Art and Vision. This special editorial research/exhibition project has been organised by **Denisa Tomkova**, who is a current Curatorial and Publications Research Fellow for SixtyEight Art Institute.

OPENING RECEPTION/TALK

Friday 3 December 18 – 21

Please note that the exhibition opening will be accompanied by a public talk about art publishing, cross-border collaborations, and editorial research as an emerging field. The talk will feature Eleonor Jap Sam (Editor/Owner of Jap Sam Books) in conversation with Denisa Tomkova (Curatorial and Publications Research Fellow, SixtyEight Art Institute).

THE BOOK AS ART AND VISION

Building on the objective of Jap Sam Books to generate a multidisciplinary approach and cross-border thinking, the 'December Bookshop' exhibition at the SixtyEight Art Institute in collaboration with Really Simple Syndication Press, aims to present the Dutch publishing house to Danish audiences. The exhibition **'The Book as Art and Vision by Jap Sam Books'** reflects on books as art objects. It will present art books which possess different forms of materiality, visuality and can unfold into art objects. One of the books presented is by Dutch artist Liesbeth Piena, also was awarded with the Sieger White Award 2020. Her book *A Colour Has Many Layers*, was part of this award and consists of powerful, graphic images of plants and natural scenery.

In conversation with Piena's abstractions of plants will be a poster series by Dutch visual artist Anuli Croon whose prints from her book *Patterns of Life* will also form part of the installation. In *Before I Was Born*, Tja Ling illustrates the story of her family's journey from China to the Netherlands in 14 interconnected pencil drawings. The book is an art object, a leporello, which is 4,5m long. Artist Maurice Bogaert's book *The Walter Benjamin and Albert S. Project* (which has received several awards including Best Dutch Book Designs 2020 and 2021 Tokyo TDC Excellent Typography Design) is the artist's attempt to create a cinematic experience without actually making a film. *No Seat At The Table*, initiated and written by Minem Sezgin, is a fictional graphic novel about the local and global influences of gentrification on citizens in Turkish and Dutch cities. The book is beautifully illustrated by Rajab Eryigit, Bob Mollema, Erhan Muratoglu, and Jasmijn de Nood. Four silkscreen prints from the book will be installed in the exhibition. Erik Odijk's book *The Academy of the Sublime* (the Best Dutch Book Design Award, 2020 – student jury) includes drawings, photographs, and works of art in public space. The book consists of three separate 'magazines' or 'artist portfolios' and illustrates the three different disciplines in the artist's oeuvre. The large format of the book allows the viewer/reader to disappear into Odijk's work, as it were.

The exhibition will also show one of Odijk's video works. Finally, Danish artist Rune Peitersen will give us a sneak preview into his upcoming project *RAABJERG*, consisting of a film (release 2022, Biennale für Aktuelles Fotografie Manneheim), installation, and book (Jap Sam Books, release 2022). The exhibition will stimulate new ways of thinking about art books and will encourage visitors to engage with the exhibited books visually, haptically and sensorially.

BIOS

Anuli Croon (b.1964) lives and works in Rotterdam. Her paintings, fabrics, textiles and murals consist of beautiful colourful compositions, patterns and textures on two-dimensional planes.

Erik Odijk (b.1959) is a Dutch artist who creates drawings, photographs and films depicting nature which are inspired by his walks. His drawings offer the viewer a deep experience of nature in this Anthropocene era.

Liesbeth Piena (b.1993) is a Dutch painter who is living and working in Arnhem. In her abstract paintings she depicts natural landscapes and plants reduced to essential forms and graphic shapes.

Maurice Bogaert (b.1975) is an artist who currently lives and works in Amsterdam. He works on projects including film, architecture, literature with aim to create an immersive encounter with his audience.

Minem Sezgin (1990) is a visual storyteller, photographer and social innovator from Ankara who currently lives in Utrecht. Sezgin initiated and curated the project *No Seat at The Table*, created with illustrators from Turkey and the Netherlands: Rajab Eryigit (Istanbul), Bob Mollema (Utrecht), Erhan Muratoglu (Ankara), Jasmijn de Nood (Amsterdam).

Rune Peitersen (b.1971) is a Danish-born visual artist who lives and works in Amsterdam and Brussels. In his video installations he often problematises contemporary societal structures.

Tja Ling (b.1987) is an illustrator and visual artist who lives and works in Rotterdam. Her drawings consist of details, soft shades and playful lines.

Denisa Tomkova (b.1989) is a Curatorial and Publications Research Fellow at SixtyEight Art Institute. She holds an MSc in Modern and Contemporary Art: History, Curating and Criticism from The University of Edinburgh and PhD in Visual Culture from the University of Aberdeen (2019). Her PhD research focused on socially engaged art from the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland. Between 2015-2018, she was a member of the international research project 'Comparing WE's. Cosmopolitanism. Emancipation. Postcoloniality' based at the University of Lisbon. Between 2019-2021, Denisa worked for the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERAC) in Berlin, as a research fellow, curator and a project coordinator. www.denisatomkova.com

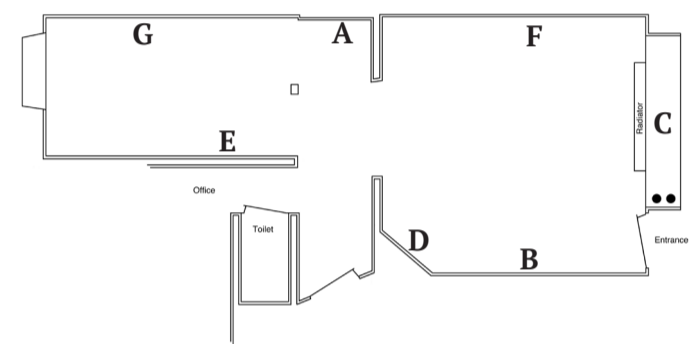
Eleonor Jap Sam (b.1968) studied art & architecture history, design and communication. She works as an independent researcher, critic, publicist, editor-in-chief and publisher. Her essays and reviews have been published in journals and magazines such as *de Architect*, *Frame / Interior design and architecture magazine*, *BOUW*, and *Decorum*. From 1998 until 2002 she was the director of the DOCOMOMO International Secretariat, an international network with 77 chapters world-wide for the documentation and preservation of the architecture and urbanism of the Modern Movement, and co-editor of the DOCOMOMO Journal. She was one of the co-founders of episode publishers vof [2002-2009], independent publishers of books on art, culture, architecture, and science in Rotterdam.

Jap Sam Books is an independent international, award-winning publishing house based in the south of the Netherlands. Jap Sam Books publishes titles that explore developments in architecture, art, philosophy, design, photography and theory as well as the fields that touch them, such as urbanism, landscape, sociology and history. Jap Sam Books was founded in 2009 by Eleonor Jap Sam. Founder Eleonor Jap Sam believes in a multidisciplinary approach and cross-border thinking. The critical and contemplative titles published by Jap Sam Books are therefore not only educational and inspiring, but also exceptionally designed and produced in close cooperation with all those involved. Jap Sam Books is internationally

renowned as an academic publisher, working with various universities and research institutes at home and abroad, and has been publishing various academic journals such as *Footprint*, *hunch*, *CUBIC Journal*, *Source*, and *iA* for years. The majority of the publications are in Dutch, English or in a combination of several languages, such as French, Spanish, Chinese, Portuguese and Arabic, Japanese, Hebrew.

The publishing house is small, but in practice it works as a network organisation with a flexible pool of collaborators, freelancers, trainees, independent entrepreneurs and partners from the relevant fields. For each book project, a team is assembled consisting of the creators/initiators, editors, translators, designers and printers.

www.japsambooks.nl



- A. Liesbeth Piena, *A Colour Has Many Layers*. Fabric print 180x60cm, 2021.
- B. Anuli Croon, *Patterns of Life*, four prints, 70x50cm, 2015.
- C. Tja Ling, *Before I Was Born*, leporello, 25.5x17x1.3 cm, 2021.
- D. Maurice Bogaert, *The Walter Benjamin and Albert S. Project* House cardboard model, 35x40x40cm, 2020
- E. Minem Sezgin, *No Seat At The Table*, four silkscreen prints by Rajab Eryigit, Bob Mollema, Erhan Muratoglu, and Jasmijn de Nood, 70x50cm, 2021.
- F. Erik Odijk, *The Academy of the Sublime*, book, 27x36 cm, and *Lilith #2*, video, 51:50 min, 2020.
- G. Rune Peitersen, *RAABJERG*, video, 6:40 min 2021 for upcoming book project, 2022.

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SixtyEight Art Institute is an artistic/curatorial research organisation looking to uncover, develop, and further exchanges between artists and curators and their creative labour. The exhibition and editorial research project 'The Books as Art and Vision by Jap Sam Books', curated by Denisa Tomkova is the forth of our two-year programme *Memoirs of Saturn*, which will be looking to rethink the concept of 'prosperity' as a common value we have the chance to develop through art, in and with nature. The programme is kindly supported by the **Danish Arts Foundation**, **Det Obelske Familiefond**, and **Beckett-Fonden**.

OPENING HOURS

Wed and Thurs 11–18
Friday 11–17
Saturday 13–17

Gothersgade 167, st.th., Copenhagen, Denmark
www.sixtyeight.dk

Image: *A Colour Has Many Layers*. Liesbeth Piena, 2021. Courtesy of the Artist and Jap Sam Books.