

SILKE RIIS

I am pretty anxious about being an artist of the early 21st century. The future seems like a dystopia that has already arrived, yet our global crisis is so normalised that it is almost boring to talk about. How do I make art in a world that is dying? To answer this question I had to realise that its statement is wrong: The world isn't dying, we are. And with us die all the myths and rules we have created. This leaves space for new questions: How do I produce art for (and as) a dying species, and what will come after us? I speculate about futures without me, creating models of imagined species from a world without anthropocentric necropolitics. I get inspired by the already otherworldly: Rainforest plants, marine invertebrates, mould formations, as well as mythologies, paracosms and science fiction. I want to represent and reflect the fragility of life and the ecosystems that make our world, so I treat my art as bouquets of flowers. There is an unspoken consensus about their premise: When a flower is picked its transformation begins, where it will undeniably go from vibrant and perky to decaying and brown. Knowing this, I will pick it for its beauty anyway, buying front-row tickets to a slow performance piece on decomposition. This is represented in my main choice of materials, liquid latex and unfired clay; The tears of the trees and the flesh of the Earth. With these two components I have developed a sculptural technique that is ephemeral and alive, slowly changing over the years much like myself. I think nothing should last forever. Not bouquets of flowers, nor my artworks. Being from the 21st century, their aesthetic memories will be immortalised through the lens of my phone and the pixels on a screen, but their smell, their touch, the way the light and shadow played on their skin will only be remembered by those who experienced them. I make art for an uncertain future by making art with an uncertain future.

WEBSITES

Persoonlijke website

silkeriis.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

instagram.com/silke.riis

OPLEIDINGEN

2023 - midseason program, 2023 Groningen, HET
2024 RESORT

2019 - BA Fine Arts Den Haag, Koninklijke
2023 Academie van Beeldende Kunsten

2018 - Art folk high school Kunsthøjskolen i
2019 Holbæk

TENTOONSTELLINGEN

2024 Unter und unter uns Maerz Gallerie
Linz, Oostenrijk Group show that was

INTERNATIONALE UITWISSELINGEN / ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCIES

	part of the first ever Klimabiennale Wien ("Climate Biennale Vienna"), which had a focus on climate change. www.maerz.at/event/unter-und-unter-uns-klimabiennale-wien/ Groep	2024	Self-organised Tokyo, Japan A 5 week self-organised research trip to Tokyo, Japan. Researching plant life in urban space, futurism, japanese post-atomic bomb art, and ceramics.
2024	Long grass, short lives (A recipe for clumping) ATV Piccardthof (via het resort) Groningen, Nederland Our group show that marked the end of our 2 week residency in the community garden ATV Piccardthof in Groningen. The artworks and exhibition concept was developed there, and the show was on for a week, following the garden's opening hours (from sunrise til sunset). My work was a site-specific installation on the trees in the apple orchard, and it is still on view there until September 2024. www.hetresort.nl/midseason-23.html Groep	2022	Die Angewandte Vienna, Oostenrijk Exchange semester in the Site-Specific Art Department
2024	De Bredase Tuinen der Lusten Op zoek naar de Balans der Dingen Stedelijk Museum Breda Breda, Nederland A group show inspired by Bosch's "Garden of Earthly Delights", bringing the painting to life in 4 different public gardens of Breda. kop.nu/agenda/tuinderlusten/ Groep		
2024	BEERS 9 - Unge kunstnere på kro Byens Kro Copenhagen, Denemarken Group show at the legendary anti-establishment art venue, "Byens Kro" in the heart of Copenhagen Groep		
2023	Konvooi Festival, 2023 Het Entrepot Bruges, België Art and performance festival taking place in the harbour of Bruges and in Het Entrepot konvooifestival.be/ Groep		
2023	Nomadic exhibition Reading Room Rotterdam x Ijskast Rotterdam, Nederland De Ijskast and Reading Room hosted 24 artists inside the RRR bakfiets along with some featured books from the collection. The tour included stops at Rib, Depot, Melly and Piet Zwart. I contributed with a functional ceramic whistle, inspired by		

the classic Danish “piv-i-røv-fløjte”, which directly translates to “toot-in-the-ass-whistle”.
www.instagram.com/p/CwhgEvjonGY/?img_index=1
Groep

- 2023 Museumnacht Den Haag Amare Den Haag, Nederland I represented KABK Fine Arts Department together with fellow alumna Obbe van der Weide at Amare
Groep
- 2023 Manifestations Dutch Design Week Eindhoven, Nederland Showed my installation "Shadow Dwellers" at Manifestations in the Veem building, Strijp-S, of DDW
ddw.nl/en/programme/11021/shadow-dwellers
Groep
- 2023 Wat denk je Zelf? Mediamatic Amsterdam, Nederland Tijdens Museumnacht 2023 (zaterdag 4 november) verandert Mediamatic in een levende zelftest-straat. Aan de hand van een 12-tal kunstprojecten kun je onderzoek doen naar vragen als: Hoe verschillend ben ik zelf en wil ik wel ergens bij horen? Geen zorgen; er is ook een bar voor normale mensen!
www.mediamatic.net/nl/page/389888/wat-denk-je-zelf
Groep
- 2023 Hybrid Realms Trixie Den Haag, Nederland Weefsels van plantaardige vezels, menselijke en niet menselijke hybrides die verenigen om voort te kunnen bestaan en planten die omgevingen overwoekeren. De werken in Hybrid Realms reageren op de veranderende ecologie en spiegelen veelvoorkomende sci-fi motieven. Vanwege klimaatveranderingen zijn deze toekomstbeelden dichterbij dan wij soms denken. De tentoonstelling duikt in een thematisch onderzoek van biomorfe vormen en kijkt met een inwaartse blik naar materialiteit, waarin zij de praktijk van de betrokken kunstenaars verenigt. In de tentoonstelling komen hun verschillende benaderingen van de relatie tussen menselijke en niet

menselijke levensvormen samen en hoe deze kunnen samensmelten en in dialoog staan met elkaar. De kunstenaars nodigen de bezoeker uit om met een open blik naar de verwevenheid van structuur en identiteit te kijken die de mens vormt in relatie tot haar ecosysteem. Hybrid Realms moedigt ons aan om na te denken over de tweeledige ruimte waarin wij, samen met andere levensvormen samenleven—een rijk tussen rigide categorieën.

www.trixieth Hague.nl/news/hybrid-realms-group-exhibition/

Groep

- 2023 Some Breathe Through Their Butts
Mediamatic Amsterdam, Nederland For
Mediamatic Silke has transformed two
bathrooms into curious habitats for
cucumber-shaped creatures that
visitors are invited to experience in the
privacy of a toilet visit. The installation
draws inspiration from cucumber
curvatures and the fascinating life of
sea cucumbers and their poop.
www.mediamatic.net/en/page/389850/some-breathe-through-their-butts
Solo

- 2023 Fever Festival The Grey Space in the
Middle Den Haag, Nederland Art
exhibition and festival.
www.instagram.com/fevrfestival/
Groep

- 2023 POP UP Festival Højbro Plads (public
space) Copenhagen, Denemarken Art
festival taking place in different public
spaces in Copenhagen. www.popup-arts.com/festival
Groep

- 2023 KABK Grad Show The Royal Academy
of Art The Hague Den Haag, Nederland
Graduation show from KABK
graduation.kabk.nl/
Groep

- 2022 Three Birds, No Stone Verheeskade /
7aak Den Haag, Nederland Pre-Grad
show, organised with my graduating
class
Groep

- 2022 An Evening with the Shadow Barth

- Kapel Den Haag, Nederland An evening event of experimental dinner, performance, and installation, paying tribute to "the shadow"
silkeriis.com/An-evening-with-the-shadow
 Groep
- 2022 Sterrentuin III Ketelstraat studios / garden Den Haag, Nederland Sculpture garden / exhibition, arranged by Shani Leseman in the 750m2 garden behind her studio at Ketelstraat 23
 Groep
- 2022 Wissen Der Stadt Public space Vienna, Oostenrijk Part of Angewandte Festival 2022
www.angewandtefestival.at/2022
 Groep
- 2022 The Blue Hour Society Paulusplatz Gallery Vienna, Oostenrijk Exhibition showing the results of our futuristic archaeology work as an experimental art group
 Groep
- 2021 Far Closer Page Not Found Den Haag, Nederland Window exhibition during covid page-not-found.nl/2021/02/25/far-closer-exhibition/
 Groep
- 2020 SHOWCASE Heden Gallery Den Haag, Nederland Window exhibition during covid, Heden paired up KABK students with artists from their collection
www.instagram.com/p/CKi431jlqD2/?img_index=4
 Groep

OPDRACHTEN

- Some Breathe Through Their Butts Mediamatic Amsterdam, Nederland I was commissioned by Mediamatic to make an installation in two of their bathrooms. I had complete creative freedom but had to make sure the bathrooms could still be functional (e.g. able to get cleaned and accessed with a wheelchair). They wanted me to include

AANKOPEN/WERKEN IN COLLECTIES

- 2023 Moltke-Leth Copenhagen / Tisvildeleje, Denemarken A private collection by Edit Moltke-Leth, supporting contemporary young artists. She acquired my sculpture "Stipe Stalker", which funded my graduation project

pieces with my clay-nature latex technique too. This resulted in my installation "Some Breathe Through Their Butts" which explores the potential hybrid habitat of cucumbers and sea cucumbers, inspired by the fascinating lives of the two namesake species.
www.mediamatic.net/en/page/389850/some-breathe-through-their-butts Uitgevoerd

PUBLICATIES

2023 180, No.3, Strategies Boek pressure press Frederic Maier and Juri Groß (with various artists) Berlin, Duitsland 180 is a collaborative book project where Frederic Maier and Juri Groß invite different artists to interpret a theme/topic in 24 hours. The concept began last year as a way to connect different young european artists, and so the book is spread all over Europe. It is always printed in an edition of 180. I was invited to join issue No. 3, with the theme "strategies". The book will most likely be available at Page Not Found this autumn.

PRIJZEN EN STIPENDIA

2023 Manifestations Young Talent Award Dutch Design Week, Eindhoven Eindhoven, Nederland Nominated for Manifestations Young Talent Award at Dutch Design Week 2023

2023 Stroom Young Talent Award (sinds 2004) Stroom, Den Haag Den Haag, Nederland I received this award for my graduation project at KABK Grad Show 2023, and will start my mentor program with Mickey Yang in September.

ARTISTIEKE NEVENACTIVITEITEN

2024 - -- Artist talk about my artistic practice and my installation "Some Breathe Through Their Butts" at Mediamatic, Amsterdam

2022 - I gave a workshop called "Flexible Sculptures", teaching my sculptural technique to students at Academie voor Theater en Dans, Amsterdam



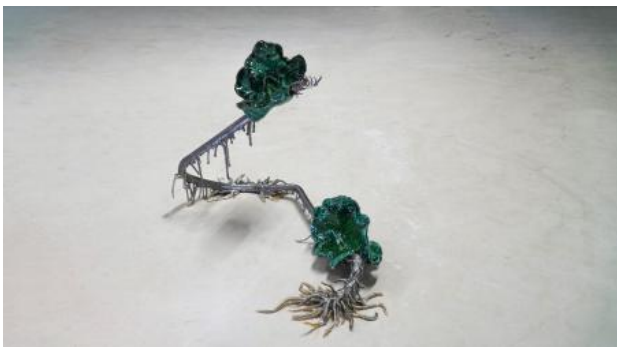
Birds! Birds! Birds! (To Everything There is a Season),
2024
Ceramics, bird seeds, Various



This Year Taught Me Something About Roots and
Mortality, 2023
Discarded steel tube, nature latex, clay, metallic pigment,
ceramic glaze and dried sea lavender , 40 x 17 x 55 cm



Friendly Giant Hogweed or Momentary Protection of
Defense Mechanisms / Momentary Protection against
Rain, Sunshine, and Hail, 2023
Drenthe clay, giant hogweed



Hybrid Realms, 2023

This Year Taught Me Something About Roots and Mortality, 2023

Discarded steel tube, nature latex, clay, metallic pigment, ceramic glaze and dried sea lavender, 40 x 17 x 55 cm



Corpse Flower, 2023
Clay, glaze, nature latex



Some Breathe Through Their Butts, 2023
Full room multimedia installation in 2 functioning bathrooms; Clay, nature latex, steel, wire, ceramic glaze, pigment, aquariums, aquarium pumps, 3 x 1 x 3,5 m

Some Breathe Through Their Butts, 2023
Full room multimedia installation in 2 functioning
bathrooms; Clay, naturelatex, steel, wire, ceramic glaze,
pigment, aquariums, aquarium pumps, 3 x 3 x 3,5 m



Some Breathe Through Their Butts, 2023
Clay, naturelatex, aquarium, ceramic glaze, 25 x 30 x 20
cm



Some Breathe Through Their Butts, 2023
Clay, naturelatex, aquarium, ceramic glaze, 40 x 40 x 40
cm