



Speech Maya Roos, press conference 26 February 2013

**Artwork on the Aalst station site: „Portrait by Speed Disk: About Louis Paul Boon“
by Maya Roos 2009/2013**

Dear Mr. Mayor Christopher D’Haese,
Dear Mrs. Ann Van der Steen,
Dear All at NMBS-Holding and the bus company De Lijn,
Dear Christian Kieckens,

Thanks to the fact that I have won this competition for art in architecture, I got to know your town and Louis Paul Boon, a writer who before then was unfamiliar to me. Last year saw the celebration of his 100th birthday, and 60 years ago, that is in 1953, his novel “De Kapellekensbaan” was first published. I was fascinated by “De Kapellekensbaan”, because of its intense language, because of its peculiar structure with three parallel stories, and above all because of the colour of expression. A colourfulness which originates in the mind of a painter. Originally, as you know, Boon wanted to become a painter and for a short time attended the Academy in Aalst. Also in this sense, the comments and thoughts of the painter Tippetotjes repeatedly appear throughout his novel, and at this point a first connection to my own work can be found. The main protagonist in “De Kapellekensbaan” is the unruly, angry girl Ondine. In the first chapter “Spring in Ter-Muren” the title of the 6th passage is: “LITTLE ONDINE BETWEEN IRON AND GLASS”.

This sentence is the inspiration for the composition of my work called „Portrait by Speed Disk: About Louis Paul Boon“ and it becomes the second connection. In the passage “Hamlet the Second” Boon illustrates the structure of his novel by using lines, and this establishes a third connection. From the computer world, you know the term “fragmentation”. On one of my computers I have got a program installed by Dr. Norton, called “Speed Disk”. Speed Disk indicates the fragmentation of hard disks through coloured lines. (The ideal image, a completely de-fragmented hard disk, would show monochrome fields.) The fragmentation of a hard disk occurs in the course of time through the work process on the computer. Each image of Speed Disk is unique, because it shows a characteristic picture of the individual user and his work. With cold, algorithmic precision the computer has recorded and arranged also my collected information on Louis Paul Boon. My artistic work now was, among other things, to rearrange the lines, that were created by the fragmentation, from a new aesthetic and emotional viewpoint, and in this way to comprehend Louis Paul Boon through a picture, a portrait, both virtual and real.

Behind the coloured lines now stand Louis Paul Boon, his work, parts of his collection of erotic photographs of beautiful women, pictures of Aalst, which originate from a walk through the city, as well as my research and drafts. The colours of the lines are assigned to the following terms: blue = the desktop, brown = the fonts, grey = the trash, white = the void (space for thinking). The colour orange is called “Others” and represents a temporary storage, for data in work progress. The coloured lines, which have a certain traction – “speed” – are intended to accompany the citizens of Aalst and their guests when they begin their journeys, and also to be a buoyant start of the working day.





Perhaps Ondine today would not feel the urgent desire to leave Aalst, if she could see the rise of this city, which also this new train station demonstrates: a gateway to the world, where parting and arriving, past and future are meeting continuously: train lines, life lines.

Many thanks to Mr. Christopher D'Haese and to the City of Aalst, to the members of the bus company De Lijn, the members of the company NMBS-Holding, Mr. Michael Mayer of the company Mayer'sche Hofkunstanstalt in Munich and his team for their commitment and special thanks to Christian Kieckens for his wonderful support.

Maya Roos

