ANYTHING CAN BE A CAR
BY KAREL VERHOEVEN
Anything can B_a Car is an ongoing project, started in 2010. The starting point is a series of photographic images collected on the road in Ghent, Brussels, Antwerp, & other places I cross during travels e.g.recently Belgrade. More and more, the collection is growing into an archive. It is a way to map human behaviour in relation to public space and indicates a certain level of intuitive artistic practice. More specifically it shows on a spatial way how to behave towards a car in the streets. The longer I collect these constructions, the more I see interesting patterns and categories. The chair for example is the object that most often occurs. But the way it is put onto the streets reflects a certain human, poetic gesture. I'm mostly interested in the sculptural objects that are put together in a way that is gentle and often complicated, when people combine different materials and assemble elegantly balancing constructions.

I like to interpret these artefacts, these objects the way an archaeologist works: as a matter of leftovers, personal belongings, often objects that are no longer used for the purpose they were meant to serve, but become a temporary public artefact. I like to interpret the profile of whom it concerns and read the objects as a phenomenological, anthropological subject. Left materials become a witness of human daily life. But they also speak of a future desire: let this place be mine! Although our life is full of chaos on one hand and rules on the other, this simple gesture is an unspoken agreement everybody understands.

Since 2011 the project has been published in several exhibitions, on the web, in national press and during interventions in the public space. All of a sudden unknown people in other cities & countries began to send me their own photos. Similar pictures from similar situations. My collection now assembles copies from Tokyo, Helsinki and Cologne. On the long term I want to map as much areas as I can to obtain a more complete and complex knowledge on this specific phenomenon. One day this collection is to become a book, an atlas of occupied public spaces.

Gradually, the images have grown into instruments, instructions for new sculptural constellations I will leave in the streets. The images I receive from unknown people stimulate to create variations on these constructions, I would even like to copy them from one space to another. With a dedicated sculptural and architectural approach, I’ll give them back to the people, who sent me the photo and to the city they were taken from. I aim to influence an urban phenomenon that I like to call poetic pragmatism.

Karel Verhoeven
info@karelverhoeven.be
2014_03_12
x Clément Losson
Brussels, BE
2014_09_03
x Thibaut De Lestré
Brussel, BE
2014_09_03
x Thibaut De Lestré
Brussel, BE
2014_11_07
Zemun, RS
THANK YOU ALL FOR SUPPORTING THIS WORK.