

THE RAVESTIJN GALLERY

PRESENTS

MARIKEN WESSELS



Model-Stop-Motion I, 2018

*Digital print on rag paper, white handpainted wooden frame, museum glass
172,1 x 119,6 cm / framed 175 x 122,5 cm / Edition of 3*

Nude - Arising From The Ground by Mariken Wessels

Opening: Friday March 13, 2020 / 17:00 - 19:00

Exhibition: 14 March - 25 April, 2020

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to the opening of the exhibition *Nude - Arising From The Ground* by Mariken Wessels on Friday, March 13 from 5 - 7 PM. The exhibition will officially be opened by Benno Tempel, director at Kunstmuseum Den Haag, at 18:00 in the presence of the artist.

A new book, designed by Hans Gremmen, entitled *Miss Cox (Nude - Arising from the Ground)* will be launched during the opening.

Comprising of sculpture, photography and film, and inspired by a series of Eadweard Muybridge collotypes, Wessels' most recent work explores the motion of obese bodies and the animalistic aspects of the human form. *Nude - Arising From The Ground* was partly premiered at Art Rotterdam 2019, but this exhibition aims to give time and space for the entire work to be seen.

In autumn 2020, the project will be part of a group show entitled *Human After All: Ceramic Reflections in Contemporary Art* at Museum Prinsessehof in Leeuwarden. Other participating artists are Geng Xue, William Cobbing, Klara Kristalova, Kris Lemsalu, Leiko Ikemura, Liliana Porter, Sharon Overmeieren, Nathalie Djurberg & Hans Berg. Curated by Tanya Rumpff.

Prior to her visual practice, Wessels studied acting at the Amsterdam Theatre School, and after a decade-long acting career she went on to study visual arts at the Gerrit Rietveld Academy. Wessels' work has been widely exhibited and has held solo exhibitions at the Fotomuseum Antwerp (2016) and Fotomuseum Den Haag (2017). Wessels has published numerous books, most notably with *Taking Off. Henry my Neighbor*, published in 2015 with Art Paper Editions to international acclaim. The book was awarded an honorary appreciation at the Leipzig Book Fair (Best Book Design from all over the World, 2016), won the Author Book Award at Les Rencontres d'Arles (2016) and was included in the selection for Best Book Designs from the Netherlands and Flanders (2015). Wessels' latest book, *Miss Cox (Nude - Arising from the Ground)*, will be published by Fw:Books in 2020.

Wessels' works and books have been collected by museums, libraries and private collectors worldwide including; Centre Pompidou (Paris), ICP and MoMA (New York), Bayerische Staatsbibliothek (Munich), Stedelijk Museum (Amsterdam), Fotomuseum Antwerp (Belgium), and the Verbeke Foundation (Belgium).

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Arising from the Ground - Model Cox III, 2018
Ceramic sculpture

160 x 85 x 115 cm / plinth 190 x 130 x 125 cm / Unique piece

Miss Cox (Nude – Arising from the Ground) is a many-sided artistic translation of artist Mariken Wessels' fascination for an anonymous woman who had posed for Eadweard Muybridge's camera in 1885. In the 24-image sequence *Arising from the Ground* (plate 286) the obese woman, who was supposedly named Miss Cox, can be traced from lying down to a full upright position. Affected by her appearance, Wessels began to make large clay sculptures and to photograph obese female models swimming underwater. In these photographs Wessels focuses on the landscapes which a body assumes impressed by water. Besides the underwater series and photographic views of the sculptures, *Miss Cox* also contains studio views including sketches and other research materials.



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