

ARTslant Amsterdam

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Hans van Houwelingen: On Our Amsterdam Watchlist



(Image: Hans van Houwelingen, *Gedane zaken nemen keer* / Den Haag, 2008; © Hans van Houwelingen)

Hans van Houwelingen (b. 1957, Harlingen, Netherlands)

Hans van Houwelingen is one of the leading contemporary artists explicitly engaged in the field of art and public space. His thought-provoking designs and proposals reflect a novel and critical view on the contemporary monument.

The exhibition 'Until it stops resembling itself' forms a diptych with a book on Van Houwelingen's recent proposals, titled 'Undone.' One concern shared by these projects is an economy of the monumental genre, whereby the artist insists that new monuments need not be built, but that existing statues and markers can be rearranged in a new urban syntax and a new discursive configuration: as in a shifting, puzzle-like image of ourselves. Statues and tombstones dislodged and moved, filmed and broadcast in real time, engaged and re-imagined in a polyphony of critical voices from these different perspectives, the exhibition comments on the impossibility of excising such works from the contexts for which they were designed. Yet it also functions as an invitation to reconsider the monument as a site for tense negotiation, for the making and unmaking of issues political or cultural, for the encounter between social actors and social ghosts.

Education: ABK Minerva, Groningen, 1978 - 1984. Rijksacademie van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam, 1985 - 1988.

More about Hans van Houwelingen here...[\(ArtSlant Profile\)](#) [\(Artist's Website\)](#) [\(Gallery\)](#)

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Brilliant understanding of his work in relation to the His Universe.

Man do I love an artist who can explain what he does in a page or less, with none of the nasal tonality that seeps out of the costly art scene productions, and up scale, magazines and confections. Hats off to you! [barbaragreenemann](#)

Comment by: [barbara mann](#) on Friday 28/10/11 23:56

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