

TOMMY SMITS

In the enigmatic realm of Tommy Smits, where the boundaries of photography, sculpture, and history blur, one can't help but wonder: is he a mere creation of our collective imagination, a figment woven into the tapestry of time? Rooted in the solidity of stone, his sculptures whisper tales of epochs long gone, yet his presence seems to elude the confines of reality. As Smits unveils his latest works, one can't help but ponder the existential irony of his existence. Is he a product of history or a masterful fabrication, a playful twist in the narrative of human perception? In the quiet corridors of his studio, where the echoes of centuries past mingle with the present, we're left to ponder the enigma of his being. For in the ephemeral dance of art and history, perhaps the greatest truth lies in the tantalizing ambiguity of Tommy Smits. Tommy Smits, a Den Haag-based artist and photographer, delves into the intricate interplay of history, interpretation, and imagery. Through his multidisciplinary practice spanning sculpture, photography, and film, Smits transforms photographs into tangible objects, experimenting with framing techniques and sculptural forms. He questions the perception and interpretation of history, emphasizing the pivotal role of the observer in shaping meaning. Drawing inspiration from personal and archival sources, Smits meticulously collects images and objects, infusing them with renewed significance. His artistic endeavor seeks to craft enduring artifacts, forging connections between past and present while subverting conventional notions of preservation and interpretation. In a nod to the intrigue of archaeological discovery, Smits occasionally conceals his own creations, leaving future generations to ponder their significance in the annals of time. The artist statement was crafted by the enigmatic wordsmith, Elara Vandermeer.

WEBSITES

www.tommymits.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.instagram.com/tommymits.tommymits/

PLATFORM

Tiny Art Gallery The Hague

LID VAN BEROEPS- / KUNSTENAARSVERENIGING

nee

OPLEIDINGEN

- 2013 - fotografie Den Haag, Koninklijke Academie
- 2017 van Beeldende Kunsten Diploma behaald

- 2009 - Fotografie Koning Willem 1 College, Den
- 2013 Bosch Diploma behaald

TENTOONSTELLINGEN

- 2024 After The Orgy Parmakon Gallery
Bucharest, Roemenië
[Groep](#)
- 2024 Ik hoor Wat Je Zegt Kiekencentrale
Antwerpen, België
[Solo](#)
- 2024 Cave #3: the Bird Cave Cave Museum
Nature, Slovenië
[Solo](#)
- 2024 Ik Hoor wat je zegt Kiekencentrale
Antwerpen, België
[Solo](#)
- 2024 Cave #3: the Birdcave Cave Museum
Wild Cave, Slovenië
[Solo](#)
- 2024 New Solo Just Dropped mountain
installation
[Solo](#)
- 2024
- 2023 Stone Money 'lectorate of new
economy' Willem twee Den Bosch,
Nederland
[Solo](#)
- 2023 'Vruuger des ok al lang geleje' Landpark
Assisie Biezenmortel, Nederland
curated
[Groep](#)
- 2023 Different reasons for digging a hole Les
Recontres de la photographue d'Arles
Arles, Frankrijk
[Groep](#)
- 2023 Atari No Mans Art Gallery Amsterdam,
Nederland
[Groep](#)
- 2023 Kijk! Valkhof Museum Nijmegen,
Nederland
[Groep](#)
- 2023 Symbiosis #4 P_ost Nijmegen,
Nederland
[Duo](#)
- 2023 Dreamscheme Springboard art fair
Utrecht, Nederland

PROJECTEN

- 2023 Stone Money Lectorate of new economy,
Nederland
- 2023 Vruuger des ok al lang geleje Biezenmortel,
Nederland

[Groep](#)

- 2023 Wake me up before it gets lonely while you are sleeping Molt Berlijn, Duitsland
[Groep](#)
- 2023 The Grand Palace Of Everyone Nest Den Haag, Nederland
[Groep](#)
- 2023 Art Rotterdam Van Nelle Fabriek Rotterdam, Nederland Prosects
[Groep](#)
- 2023 Art Rotterdam Van Nelle Fabriek Rotterdam, Nederland Booth Gallery Josilda de conceicao
[Groep](#)
- 2023 Cold Email Osseuous Matter New York, Verenigde Staten
[Groep](#)
- 2023 Stone Money ' Lectorate of new economy' Willem Twee Den Bosch, Nederland
[Solo](#)
- 2023 Vruuger des ok al lang geleje Kapel Assisie Biezenmortel, Nederland curated
[Groep](#)
- 2023 Different Reasons for Digging a Hole Les Recontres de la photographie d'Arles Arles, Frankrijk
[Groep](#)
- 2023 Atari No Mans Art Gallery Amsterdam, Nederland
[Groep](#)
- 2023 Kijk! Valkhof Museum Nijmegen, Nederland
[Groep](#)
- 2023 Symbiosis #4 Platform P_ost Nijmegen, Nederland
[Duo](#)
- 2023 DreamScheme Springboard Art Fair Utrecht, Nederland
[Groep](#)
- 2023 Molt gallery Berlin, Duitsland
[Groep](#)
- 2023 The grand palace of everyone Nest Den

Haag, Nederland

[Groep](#)

- 2023 Prospects + Gallery Josilda de conceicao Art Rotterdam Rotterdam
[Groep](#)
- 2023 Cold Email Osseous Matter New York, Verenigde Staten
[Groep](#)
- 2022 The Dig Derde Wal Nijmegen, Nederland
[Solo](#)
- 2022 Lucky charms Ballroom Gallery Brussel, België
[Groep](#)
- 2022 Homo Dentis Ensemble Marseille, Frankrijk
[Solo](#)
- 2022 Tommy's Torrent Cinema Kriterion Amsterdam, Nederland
[Solo](#)
- 2022 Wasteland The Grey Space in the Middle Den Haag, Nederland
[Groep](#)
- 2022 Making a movie AZC Rijswijk Rijswijk
[Groep](#)
- 2022 Minestery of ceramic affairs Gallery vriend van bavink Amsterdam
[Groep](#)
- 2022 The Dig Derde Wal Nijmegen, Nederland Permanent installation
[Solo](#)
- 2022 Corporate Stoner quartair Den Haag, Nederland
[Groep](#)
- 2022 New Ways Of Framing Unseen Amsterdam Tommy Smits X Jan Hoek
[Duo](#)
- 2022 To Riso Or Not DDW Eindhoven, Nederland
[Groep](#)
- 2021 Squat Hotel Mokum Amsterdam, Nederland
[Groep](#)

- 2021 Corporate Stoner Quartair Den Haag,
Nederland
[Groep](#)
- 2021 New ways of framing Unseen
Amsterdam, Nederland tommy smits x
Jan Hoek x Gallery Vriend van Bavink
[Duo](#)
- 2021 To Riso Or Not Dutch Design Week
Eindhoven, Nederland
[Groep](#)
- 2021 The tiny art gallery #2 Tiny Art Gallery
Den Haag, Nederland
[Groep](#)
- 2021 De Koninginnedag Tentoonstelling
Hgtomi Rosa Den Haag, Nederland
[Groep](#)
- 2021 Patty Morgan Bodyshop Obey Art
Space Amsterdam
[Groep](#)
- 2020 Uncle Tommy's Triple Framebow Show
Ten Haaf Projects Amsterdam,
Nederland
[Solo](#)
- 2020 Noorderlicht Fotografie festival
Museum Belvedere
[Groep](#)
- 2020 Ten Haaf Projects NADA New York,
Verenigde Staten
[Solo](#)
- 2020 Kilo Knallers koopjes kanjers Koningin
Wilhelminalaan Den Haag, Nederland
weighed and sold old works on instalive
with a € per Kilo
[Solo](#)
- 2020 Dharma Initiatives episode 2: Dunes
Duinen Den Haag
[Groep](#)
- 2020 Uncle Tommy's Triple Framebow Show
Ten Haaf Projects
[Solo](#)
- 2020 Noorderlicht Internationaal Fotofestival
2020 Museum Belvédère Heerenveen
[Duo](#)
- 2020 A Desk With A View Via Nazionale 2
Oggebbio, Italië permante installatie in

Oggebbio
Solo

2020 Noorderlicht fotofestival Museum
Belvedere Heerenveen, Nederland
Groep

2019 The Island Of The Dead Concrete Ten
Haaf Projects Amsterdam, Nederland
Ten Haaf Projects is pleased to
announce "The Island of the dead
concrete", an exhibition by Dutch artist
Tommy Smits (b. 1991). Smits
primarily works with two media:
photography and sculpture. First, he
shoots his own portraits and
landscapes whenever he travels on his
moped through Europe. Second, he
collects photos from books and
pamphlets found in second hand
markets along the way. These images
are also used in his work. Mainly
constructed out of concrete, the artist's
sculptural work incorporates photo
images and objects collected on his
past journeys. The sculptures form a
collage revealing stories of his travels,
monuments representing his journeys
through Europe. By casting photos in
concrete, Smits claims to have invented
photographic-concrete, which he refers
to as: "Concretography™", a method of
fossilising photographs. For instance,
during his travels he casted one of his
works high up a mountain in a secret
location in Switzerland. Smits aims to
turn contemporary objects and
photographs into fossils. The idea that
archaeologists would find his work in
the future, debate and determine what
they found, gives Smits great
enjoyment. Tommy Smits, who
graduated in 2017 from the Royal
Academy in The Hague, has a unique
visual language and way of working. We
are pleased to see Ten Haaf Projects
gallery filled with many of his large
sculptures. During the opening
celebration, Smits will hand out and
sign copies of his latest photographic
edition. This will be the artist's first solo
exhibition.
[www.tenhaafprojects.com/The-Island-
of-the-Dead-Concrete](http://www.tenhaafprojects.com/The-Island-of-the-Dead-Concrete)
Solo

2019 "Private Dealer" Art Rotterdam van

Nelle Fabriek, Rotterdam, Nederland
Rogue gallerist floating about the black
market. Selling my concrete works at
Art Rotterdam from a long trenchcoat.
www.instagram.com/p/BtwaGVslMMq/
Solo

2018 OpZicht: Tommy Smits 'Tommy &
Danny in Search of The Future' Stroom
Den Haag, Nederland Tommy Smits
(1991, Den Bosch NL) graduated from
the Photography department of the
Royal Academy of Art, The Hague in
2017. Tommy's graduation show The
Great Backyard encompassed a series
of frame sculptures and a large TV
Stone playing his video Journey to
Frame the World. His photography and
frame making quests are fueled by an
interest in reversed archeology and
primitive technology, leading him to
make frames for the Sun, turn
mountains into photo frames, erecting
his own Menhirs and creating a
Fotosaurus. Tommy Smits' work is a
marriage between photography and
materials that undergo a process of
hardening such as concrete and clay,
giving weight to the fleeting
photographic memory and often
resulting in bizarre picture frames that
should last until the end of time.
Tommy Smits is currently working in a
remote desert location in rural Spain.
Together with fellow artist Daniel
Dmyszewicz he is investigating the town
of La Junquera, where amidst an Eco
restoration project, a futuristic village,
farmers, volunteers, investors and The
Regeneration Festival they are driving
on their scooter in search of the future.
For months they are contemplating the
Sun and surviving on the Green Front of
Eco restoration. The video shown is a
trailer for their upcoming movie and
book: Tommy & Danny op Zoek naar De
Toekomst.
Solo

2018 "ABC Dixi Night: Grote Avond" De
Brakke Grond Amsterdam, Nederland
Dear Dutchmen and other dwellers of
Amsterdam city, ABC Klubhuis is
honored and excited to meet you on the
notorious 'Museum Night' In November
this year we will be taking on Vlaams

Cultuurhuis de Brakke Grond where we will organize a good old art fiesta. On the 3rd of November ABC Klubhuis will travel from Antwerpen to Amsterdam City, to welcome you dear guest to a autumn special ABC Dixi Night. It will be a special evening indeed, first of all it is the first ABC Dixi Night in the world, second it will be filled with surprises for all age groups classic art, food, drinks for children and grown ups, memorabilia to remember all the sweet moments of this Grote Avond and last but not least a Wheel of Fortune where you can give your future a little spin...

www.abcklubhuis.com/html/ex/9.html

Groep

2018 "Oddities" De Vlieg Haarlem, Nederland
A groupshow of 3 artists fresh of the Royal Academy , The Heage (KABK). All 3 of them busy with very different themes , But all of them Rebel against the idea of aesthetics as something that should be "nice". The name of the show derives from the common interest of the artists in the Absurd. And in the manner the artists are presenting their dubious relics (1991, NL) is a troglodyte who plays with alternative and self-opinionated forms of presenting and conserving photographs. Resulting in an array of experiments and invented photo frames that seek to give material weight to the fleetness of photography.

www.facebook.com/events/de-vlieg-kruisstraat-20-haarlem/oddities/422016804894644/

Groep

2018 "Replacement" N Den Haag

Groep

2017 THE CURSE OF THE DARK SAFENESS
Dark Safe Den Haag As a tribute to the famous halloween celebration, Ekoc decided to organise a real-horror-exhibition. The show was curated by Ekoc members Bas Kaufmann and Tommy Smits. Visitors where transported to a disclosed dark world of uncertainty and a parallel scary art world. ekoc.org/curse-of-the-dark-safeness

ekoc.org/curse-of-the-dark-safeness

Groep

- 2017 Pliable LhGWR Den Haag, Nederland
Tommy Smits (1991, NL) speelt in zijn
werk The Great Backyard met
alternatieve en eigenzinnige
presentatievormen van fotografie.
Gevonden foto's over onderwerpen als
labradors, grasmaaiers en vliegtuigen
zijn samengesmolten in
driedimensionale werken. Het resultaat
zijn hybride werken waarin de foto niet
langer de hoofdzaak is.
[Groep](#)
- 2017 KABK Den Haag Tommy Smits (1991,
Den Bosch NL) graduated from the
Photography department of the Royal
Academy of Art, The Hague in 2017.
Tommy's graduation show The Great
Backyard encompassed a series of
frame sculptures and a large TV Stone
playing his video Journey to Frame the
World.
[Groep](#)
- 2017 Fietsende Carnavals Tentoonstelling
(Brabant) CV De Gierboys
[Groep](#)
- 2017 Melkweg Expo THE INK THE MILK THE
BLOOD
[Groep](#)
- 2017 La Murate Prospettive Trasversali
[Groep](#)
- 2017 LhGWR My Name in 100 Colophons
[Groep](#)
- 2016 Fietsende tentoonstelling (Den Haag
Goirle) Bring Back Memory Lane
[Solo](#)
- 2016 Spui 126a Paradise
[Groep](#)
- 2015 De Affiche Galerij The King and I
- works installed in mountains New Solo
Just Dropped andorra, Andorra
[Solo](#)
- Re-Generation Festival La Junquera
Murcia, Spanje The Re-Generation
Festival is the first event in a unique
series of celebrations of their kind. Set
in the rich cultural background of a
once thriving region, the Re-Generation

festival will breathe life back into soil,
soul and society, through our activities
and shared intention to restore.

www.re-generationfestival.com

Groep

-- After the Orgy Pharmakon Gallery
boekares, Roemenië
Groep

INTERNATIONALE UITWISSELINGEN / ARTIST-IN- RESIDENCIES

2024 Kiekencentrale Antwerpen, België
2024 Antwerpen, België
2023 Molt Berlijn, Duitsland
2023 Landpark Assisie Biezenmortel,
Nederland
2022 Derde Wal Nijmegen, Nederland
2021 Wobby / Make Eindhoven Eindhoven,
Nederland
2020 Oggebbio, Italië
2018 desert La Junquera, Spanje

OPDRACHTEN

2030 Tentoonstelling Documententatie
Tentoonstellingen, Nederland

AANKOPEN/WERKEN IN COLLECTIES

2024 De Beer & de Slang Kiekencentrale
Antwerpen, België
2023 Boba's Night Light Sasha Zalivako Paris,
Frankrijk
2023 Allemaal bij de waterbron lijst Ariane
Toussaint Den Haag, Nederland
2023 Terrazzo Tooth Ischa Kempka Utrecht,
Nederland
2022 The Dig Maro van Thiel Nijmegen
2022 Amateur Tomb Raiders Kaspar de Jong
Amsterdam

PUBLICATIES

2020 Spreadmag 3 Boek Nederland
2017 Ondernemen is VNO NCW Forum
2017 THE INK THE MILK THE BLOOD Self
Published Catalog
2017 THE GREAT BACKYARD Self Published
Catalog
2016 The Case of the Missing Deer Self Published
Fotoboek
2015 THE HISTORY CHANNEL Banter (Self
published) Magazine

2022 Toothframe #18 Thomas Mailaender
Marseille, Frankrijk

2022 toothframe #6 Ensemble Marseille

2022 T rex Fossil Diego Grandy Den Haag,
Nederland

2021 Fossilframe UMC Kunstcollectie
Amsterdam, Nederland

2021 The Dip Thijs Jaeger Den Haag

2021 Wachten Tot Je Een Ons Weegt Boris
de Beijer Den Haag

2020 terrazzo amoeba afra eisma
amsterdam, Nederland

2020 Desk With a View Justin ten Haaf
Oggebbio, Italië

2019 on the object ruled planet of inanimate
enemies where no one is listening and
everyone is talking Shani Leseman
rijswijk, Nederland

2019 rugby jan hoek amsterdam, Nederland

2019 Koud maken baas? Steven de Kok Den
Haag

2019 Life of Jan Wouter Fris Amsterdam

-- Losing the Found Finding the lost
Private Nijmegen

PRIJZEN EN STIPENDIA

2023 Above the Seafog Stichting Stokroos

2021 mondriaan fonds amsterdam,
Nederland Mondriaan Start

2020 (sinds 2004) Stroom, Den Haag Den
Haag Stroom pro invest

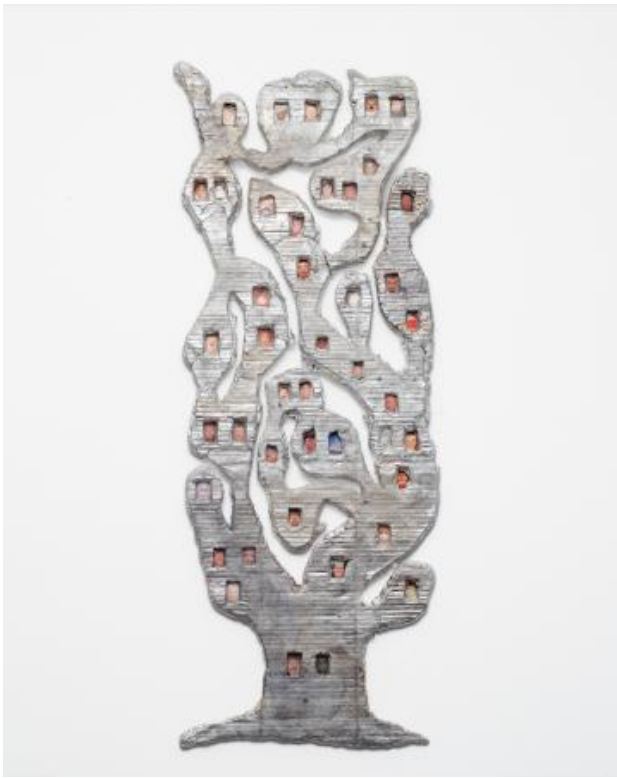
2018 (sinds 2004) Stroom, Den Haag Den
Haag stroom Pro onderzoek

ARTISTIEKE NEVENACTIVITEITEN

2020 - -- the tiny art gallery The Hague Loopt nog

2020 - -- Documentommy Loopt nog

2017 - -- C.v. De Gierboys Loopt nog



Family Tree, 2024
cast aluminium, found photography, 80x50



family tree, 2024



Disclaimer: Artwork May Already be Gone, 2024
Key, plexiglass, Lasercut Metal, Hahnemuhle baryt print, rivets, 10x9



Disclaimer: Artwork May Already be Gone, 2024
Key, plexiglass, Lasercut Metal, Hahnemuhle baryt print, rivets, lanyard, 40x100



Ik hoor wat je zegt, 2024
Plasma Cut Metal, Casted Aluminium, Bathtub, 300x300



Nystagmus: diary of the wild miner, 2023
12



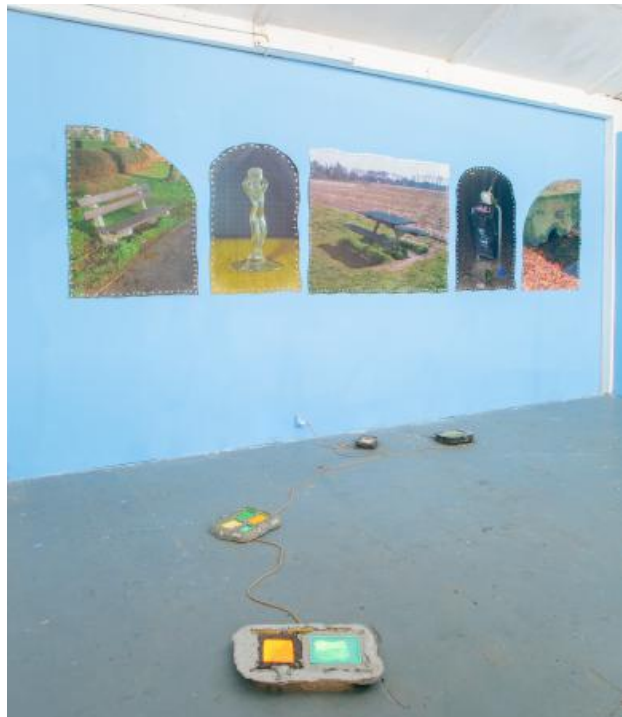
Frans van As en Zijn Maten, 2023
15



New Solo Just Dropped 1, 2023
Plaster, Concrete, c-print, 70x70



The Secret map of the hidden area, 2023
marle, c-prints, led strip, epoxy, gemstones, fossils,
100x80



Public Space Archeologist, 2023
Dyeprint on PVC, rivets, resin, concrete, artist photos,
400x200