brg is an online platform, collecting, describing, presenting and generating documents of all sorts. It documents documents. Your path through the collection lead along A DONNER, Swarms, From Asturias, Into Cantabria, Passing Time Near a Particle Accelerator, It's Pouring, Album, Album, A Bibliographic Reference, Original Copy, Crocodile Copy, Swarms, A peregrine falcon in the internal perimeter, 12:13, Flashlight in a dark corner of the Oval Room, Room 3, Crash (2), Crash (1), Garage Paul > Garage Robert (collection of 2023), Market What constitutes a 'document' and how does it function?

According to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, the etymological origin is the Latin 'documentum', meaning 'lesson, proof, instance, specimen'. As a verb, it is 'to prove or support (something) by documentary evidence', and 'to provide with documents'. The online version of the *OED* includes a draft addition, whereby a document (as a noun) is 'a collection of data in digital form that is considered a single item and typically has a unique filename by which it can be stored, retrieved, or transmitted (as a file, a spreadsheet, or a graphic)'. The current use of the noun 'document' is defined as '*something* written, inscribed, *etc.*, which furnishes evidence or information upon any subject, as a manuscript, title-deed, tomb-stone, coin, picture, etc.' (emphasis added).

Both 'something' and that first 'etc.' leave ample room for discussion. A document doubts whether it functions as something unique, or as something reproducible. A passport is a document, but a flyer equally so. Moreover, there is a circular reasoning: to document is 'to provide with documents'. Defining (the functioning of) a document most likely involves ideas of communication, information, evidence, inscriptions, and implies notions of objectivity and neutrality – but the document is neither reducible to one of them, nor is it equal to their sum. It is hard to pinpoint it, as it disperses into and is affected by other fields: it is intrinsically tied to the history of media and to important currents in literature, photography and art; it is linked to epistemic and power structures. However ubiquitous it is, as an often tangible thing in our environment, and as a concept, a document *deranges*. the-documents.org continuously gathers documents and provides them with a short textual description, explanation, or digression, written by multiple authors. In *Paper Knowledge*, Lisa Gitelman paraphrases 'documentalist' Suzanne Briet, stating that 'an antelope running wild would not be a document, but an antelope taken into a zoo would be one, presumably because it would then be framed – or reframed – as an example, specimen, or instance'. The gathered files are all documents – if they weren't before publication, they now are. That is what the-documents.org, irreversibly, *does*. It is a zoo turning an antelope into an 'antelope'.

As you made your way through the collection, the-documents.org tracked the entries you viewed. It documented your path through the website. As such, the time spent on the-documents.org turned into this – a new document.

This document was compiled by \_\_\_\_\_ on 03.05.2024 14:48, printed on \_\_\_\_\_ and contains 18 documents on 38 pages. (https://the-documents.org/log/03-05-2024-6053/)

the-documents.org is a project created and edited by De Cleene De Cleene; design & development by atelier Haegeman Temmerman.

the-documents.org has been online since 23.05.2021.

#### Notes

- De Cleene De Cleene is Michiel De Cleene and Arnout De Cleene. Together they form a research group that focusses on novel ways of approaching the everyday, by artistic means and from a cultural and critical perspective.
- www.decleenedecleene.be / info@decleenedecleene.be
  This project was made possible with the support of the Flemish Government and KASK & Conservatorium, the school of arts of HOGENT and Howest. It is part of the research project *Documenting Objects*, financed by the HOGENT Arts Research Fund.

#### Sources

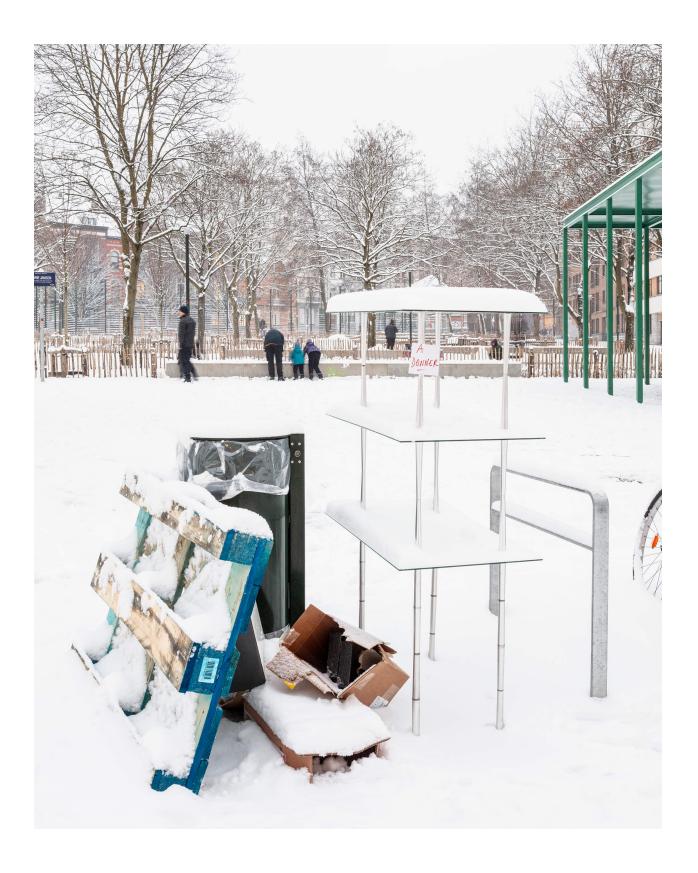
- Briet, S. Qu'est-ce que la documentation? Paris: Edit, 1951.
- Gitelman, L. Paper Knowledge. Toward a Media History of Documents. Durham/ London: Duke University Press, 2014.
- Oxford English Dictionary Online. Accessed on 13.05.2021.





A snow-covered stainless steel and glass shelf has a note, written in red marker, cello-taped to one of the steel supports: 'A DONNER'.

Now a park, the Place Marie Janson – colloquially called *Carré Moscou* or *Carré Monnaies* – used to house *L'Hôtel des Monnaies/het Munthof*. For a century, the coins of some twenty-two countries were minted in this building.



type photograph date 03.04.2024 filename \_44A8275.dng size 52,46 MB author Michiel De Cleene

category card, decoration, dusk, precipitation, sign, waste

### 16:36:35

July. Our eight-month-old son has a fever. We have a hard time getting him to drink enough. The tally marks on the back of a tortellini-box keep track of the diapers he wets and the millilitres of milk and electrolytes he's able to hold down.

Stuck inside with worrying parents, a sticker-book about a farm is his brother's favourite pass-time. Tired of having to go back and forth between the pastures and the sticker-filled sheets we decide to use my arm as a repository for animals that share a habitat.



type photograph date 23.01.2024 filename IMG\_6467.jpeg size 1,66 MB author Michiel De Cleene

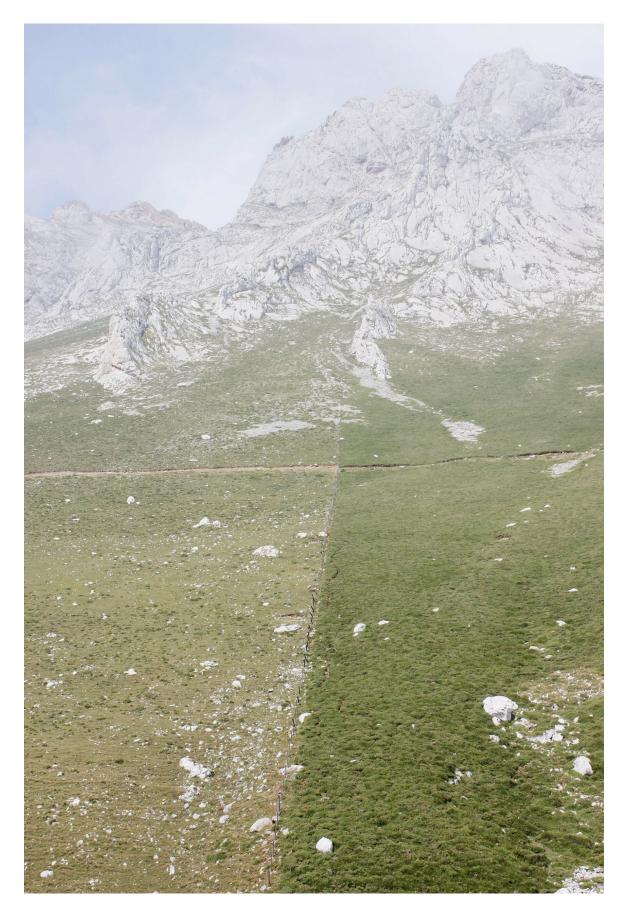
category collecting, family, hand, sticker

## 16:39:02

the-documents.c

A half a day's walk from the Fuente Dé *teleférico*, there are less and less traces of passers-by. The path to Sotres suddenly runs through a lusher green. The fence between two pastures keeps the sheep from crossing and coincides with the border between two regions. A hole in the fence would change the landscape's hue.

## **From Asturias, Into Cantabria**



type photograph date 15.05.2021 filename \_MG\_9795.jpg size 4,6MB author Arnout De Cleene

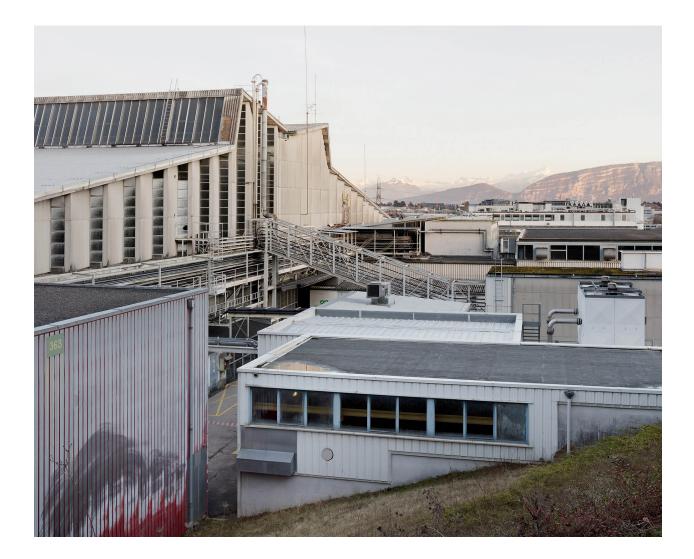
category animal, landscape, government

## 16:41:39

the-documents.c

On the second to last day of a research visit at CERN, there was some spare time in the schedule. I took a long walk towards building 282 in search of some excavation samples: cylindrical pieces of rock that were preserved when the tunnel was dug, glued to a block of wood and frequently exhibited in museums over the last three decades as material evidence of the earthwork and as a witness to the depth. The route led me along the back of building 363 where the wind caused young trees – now gone – to scuff the facade over time.

## orgPassing Time Near a Particle Accelerator



type photograph date 11.07.2021 filename cern\_011.tif size 57,57 MB author Michiel De Cleene

category architecture, archive, landscape, physics, Reference Guide, technology, tree, wind

16:42:12

#### the-documents.c

In his debut novel 'De Metsiers' Hugo Claus employs a multiple narrative perspective. In the copy I picked up in a thrift store, there's a bookmarker between pages 44 and 45 where the perspective shifts from Ana to Jim Braddok. It's pouring. The pink piece of paper lists 9 sessions at a driving school. There's a total of 20 hours, taught alternately by Johan and Guy.

Tim Braddok 750 x (1ºla) ( ( 'Het regent hard,' zegt hij. ?' vraag ik. Ik kom ook bij het venster staan, nu arstraks horen, en zwijgt dan, ineenge-2 eb nooit gedacht dat het mogelijk was. over de volle lengte van zijn bovenlip  $D_1 = \frac{26}{12}$  om  $15^{u,30}$ . die van zijn neusvleugels uitgaan 17 Johan it ik nog niet bij een vrouw geweest ben die van zijn neusvleugels uitgaan. 'Er staat een venster open, het tocht, n, hoe hij kapotging er aan. Hoe de arm, versleten vrouwelijk schepsel joeg, deur dicht, maar zij waait open, ik ze Di 2/d om 15<sup>430</sup> 17 een grove reet licht, dan ga ik zitten, kt, tot een vervloekte, verdomde zelftegen de leuning. 'Het is laat,' zegt hij. 'Zullen zij...' Woe 3ld om  $19^{30} - 21^{00}$ Juny 11/2 het meisje morgen zal zien, of misschien iers worden, zij is als de anderen, zo Flot on to -12 To Flor om 10 - 12 Juny 2 version van haar onwezenlijk bleke Na 8lor om 18<sup>30</sup>-20<sup>35</sup> Johan 2 version van haar hat brugje Na 8lor om 18<sup>30</sup>-20<sup>35</sup> Johan 2 version van haar hat brugje alles ondergaan hebben, wat over haar het einde van een film: ik red haar nog tube total on 19°-21° } Juny 2 Zo 14bd on 10°-22° } Juny 2 het einde van een nim: IN 100 num praat haar in het hoofd dat alles nog r de bloemen, naar de lucht enz. en dat n daar komt de zoen. No. 15/01 om 12 - 1630 Johan tijd, zij kijkt naar het schilderij met de 4 vond bewoog en sprak, zoals zij nu in de et uit als een dorpsmeisje. Ik heb haar in . Zij lijkt niet op de Zedelgemse vrouwen, nals vliegen om suiter Le het uit de state 4 fuy Di 16/01 om 18 30-2100 n als vliegen om suiker. In het gaan 20 is moet zij van hier vertrokken zijn. Lijken of er iets te eten valt,' zeg ik. Zij in het paviljoentje zijn, vermijdt zij mij aan 45 44

type scan date 09.06.2021 filename metsiers.jpg

16:42:52

size 11,61 MB author Michiel De Cleene

category automobile, book, card, literature, precipitation

#### the-documents.c

At the State Archive in Kortrijk, I am leafing through a 1955 photo album of the construction of the provisional church in Lokeren by the famous furniture company Kunstwerkstede De Coene. Gigantic wooden, prefabricated beams structure the building. It is cold. An old man in a grey suit shuffles between the racks to look up the date of birth of his great great grandmother. Snow covers the unfinished provisional roof. A bus passes, I reckon, through the pouring rain.

## org Album



type audio date 22.12.2020 filename VP100184.MP3

size

1,8MB

author Arnout De Cleene

category architecture, book, data storage, De Coene, precipitation



#### the-documents.c

At the State Archive in Kortrijk, I am leafing through a 1955 photo album of the construction of the provisional church in Lokeren by the famous furniture company Kunstwerkstede De Coene. Gigantic wooden, prefabricated beams structure the building. It is cold. An old man in a grey suit shuffles between the racks to look up the date of birth of his great great grandmother. Snow covers the unfinished provisional roof. A bus passes, I reckon, through the pouring rain.

## org Album



type audio date 22.12.2020 filename VP100184.MP3

size

1,8MB

author Arnout De Cleene

category architecture, book, data storage, De Coene, precipitation

16:43:30

'ORIGINAL. Rire de tout ce qui est original, le haïr, le bafouer, et l'exterminer si l'on peut.' ['ORIGINAL. Laugh with everything that's original, hate it, scold it, exterminate it if you can.']

#### the-documents.c

#### Sources

Flaubert. *Bouvard et Pécuchet* (présenté par Raymond Queneau). Paris: Livre de poche, 1959 (with p. 232-233: dried leaf of a ginkgo tree, and p. 324-325: dried leaf of a birch tree), p. 429 [2,00 EUR, Librairie Vic-sur-Cère, August 2021].

## A Bibliographic Reference



type photograph date 14.09.2021 filename \_MG\_7413.JPG size 5,2MB author Arnout De Cleene

category book, botany, tree, encyclopaedia, replica/copy, literature, collecting, hand

16:43:34

On Wednesday, May 9, 2018 at 2:23:14 PM Koh Elaine starts the thread *original or original copy* on the The Free Dictionary by Farlex's forum.

> 'Is "original copy" correct or should it be "original"? Thanks.'

The seventh reply to Elaine's question is Wilmar's on Thursday (his was preceded by towan52, georgew, NKM, Koh Elaine, Sarrriesfan, ChrisKC, Ashwin Joshi).

'An original copy IS the original.

Folks usually call the document first created the original, but some will say original copy. If I run that original thru the copy machine, I end up with two copies (yes, I said copies) of the same thing – the original and the duplicate of it (in terms of content). This is how the term is commonly used.

If your writing or conversation depends heavily on understand the difference, I would recommend using the terms original and duplicates. There are many times when that is very important, in that the original must be retained by a particular party, and the duplicates are marked as such and distributed or stored as required depending on the document and the circumstance.

If you are just trying to make sure that you have enough copies to distribute to everyone at the company meeting this afternoon, use whatever terms trips your trigger. But, if you want to ensure that you keep custody of the original, so that you can make additional duplicates (copies) when additional people attend, then be more specific about the words you use.

OH, and, please, in the future, include some context with your question. Asking if "word" is correct doesn't go very far in supplying a reasonably useful response.'

#### Wilmar (USA) 1M



Rank: Advanced Member

Joined: 6/4/2015 Posts: 5,721 Neurons: 1,278,032 Location: Vinton, Iowa, United States

type screenshot date 16.02.2021 filename Schermafbeelding 2021-02-16 om 11.08.01.png

size 45KB author Michiel De Cleene



Our one year old's favourite toy he's not supposed to play with is the *HP Officejet Pro L7590 All-inone* in my office. I have given up on forbidding him to play with it. We have a new game: he brings me one of his other toys, we put it on the flatbed, close the lid – as far as possible –, press the button 'START COPY – COLOR' and wait for the print to come out of the machine. When we place the original onto the copy, he laughs. So far we have copied his blue pacifier, his planet-earth-bouncyball and his rattling crocodile.



typedatefilenamesizeauthorphotograph16.02.2021\_44A8728.dng50,04MBMichiel De Cleene

category animal, archive, decoration, house, replica/copy, technology, trompe l'oeil, family

16:44:18

July. Our eight-month-old son has a fever. We have a hard time getting him to drink enough. The tally marks on the back of a tortellini-box keep track of the diapers he wets and the millilitres of milk and electrolytes he's able to hold down.

Stuck inside with worrying parents, a sticker-book about a farm is his brother's favourite pass-time. Tired of having to go back and forth between the pastures and the sticker-filled sheets we decide to use my arm as a repository for animals that share a habitat.



type photograph date 23.01.2024 filename IMG\_6467.jpeg size 1,66 MB author Michiel De Cleene

category collecting, family, hand, sticker

## 16:45:21

At the nuclear waste processing facility. While the photographer and the head of the communication department are making their way from the processing building to the temporary storage building, they walk past the central chimney.

'On the highest of the accessible levels of the chimney, operators were finding small steel rings. They gathered them, but soon noticed that new rings were added. At a certain point at a rate of one ring a day.

[...]

It took them some time to realize what they were, so they started collecting them by slipping them onto a piece of rope. By now the rings on the rope span about this distance [spreads his arms to indicate a distance of about 1.2m].

[...]

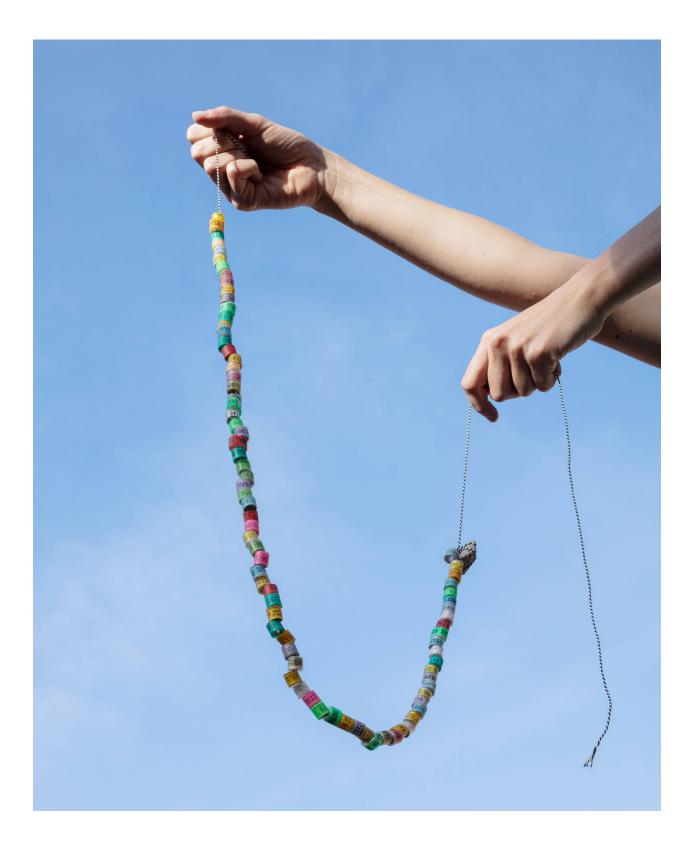
They turned out to be rings that came from pigeon's legs.

[...]

On top of our chimney resides a peregrine falcon. [...]

I was told pigeon fanciers have a tendency to give a peregrine falcon – or any other bird of prey in their area – a hand at disappearing, but this one took up residency in the internal perimeter, where – as you know – access is severely restricted.'

## A peregrine falcon in the internal perimeter



type photograph date 02.03.2022 filename duivenringen\_001.jpg size 20,04 MB author Michiel De Cleene

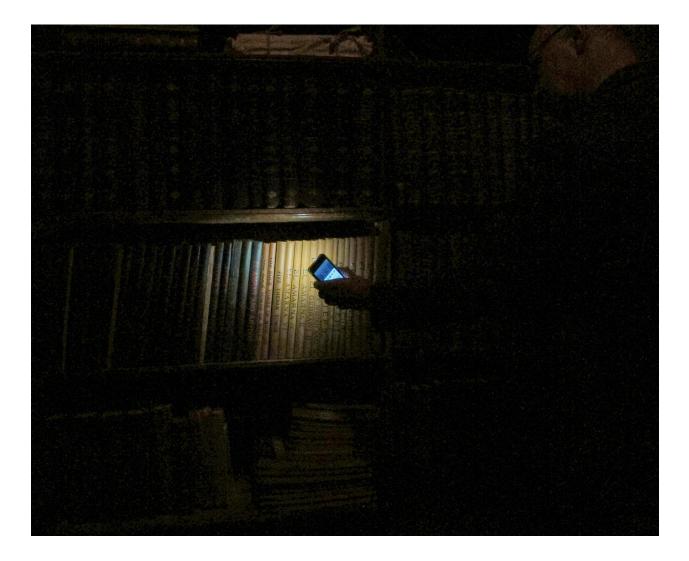
category animal, collecting, food, Reference Guide, technology, waste, hand

16:45:31

During a two hour tour, H.V. (head of the science collection) guided us from the library to the observatory and back. Along the way, he touched upon various rarities: one hundred ninety-five volumes of the Encyclopédie Méthodique (according to H.V. the most complete copy left in the world), the severed summit of Mont Blanc ('Actually de Saussure brought back a triangular piece of rock from just below the snow line near the summit'), an original copy of the publication on the infamous Lügensteine ('These date back to the time before the hoax was unveiled')...

In guiding us from room to room, H.V. piled oddity upon curiosity. He showed a particular interest in all things fish-related.

## **brg** 12:13, Flashlight in a dark corner of the Oval Room



type photograph date 30.01.2023 filename teylers.tif size 36,68 MB author Michiel De Cleene

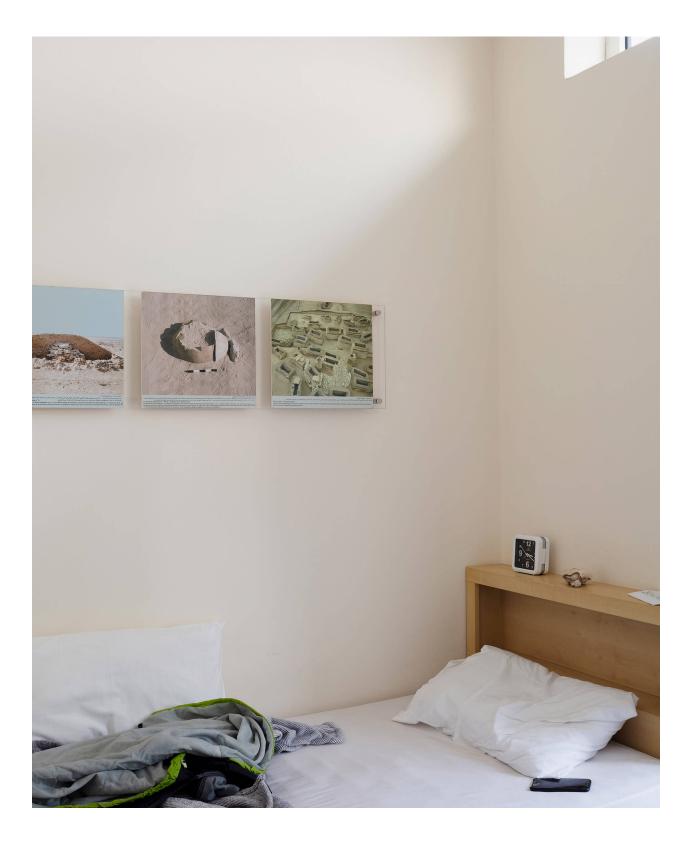
category animal, archaeology, architecture, archive, astronomy, book, encounter, hand, Reference Guide, replica/copy

16:45:54

A square photograph with an Arabic and French text underneath it is mounted on a foam board, in turn mounted on a sheet of plexiglass. The picture in the middle is flanked by a photograph of and a text about the tumuli of Umm Jidr (left) and the excavations at Abou Saybi (right). They are mounted on the West wall of Guest Room 3 at the Qual'at Al-Bahrain Site Museum, Seef, Bahrain.

Necropolises make up the main archaeological testimonies of the Tylos period (4th century BC – 3rd century AD). The urn in the photograph contains the remains of several babies. They most likely fell victim to an epidemic. The size of the ruler next to the urn remains unspecified.

org Room 3



type photograph date 11.12.2020 filename \_44A7372.dng size 49,3MB author Michiel De Cleene

category archaeology, Bahrain, epidemic, scale, decoration



Near Avenue 61 on an artificial island close to Seef, a truck is being towed after the driver lost control over the vehicle and flipped it onto its side. A warm wind blows in from the Persian Gulf.

A police officer signals us to come closer. 'Why are you taking pictures?' he asks. 'This is just an accident. You have to delete the pictures from your phone. Now.' After checking the pictures-folder on our phones, he gets in his car, drives a few metres, stops the car and rolls down his window. 'And don't do it again!' he yells. Then he drives off, raising a cloud of sand in his wake.

# org Crash (2)



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	08.05.2021	IMG_5071.jpeg	2,71MB	Michiel De Cleene

category Bahrain, crash, data storage, drought, government, interference, mistake, parking, sand, technology

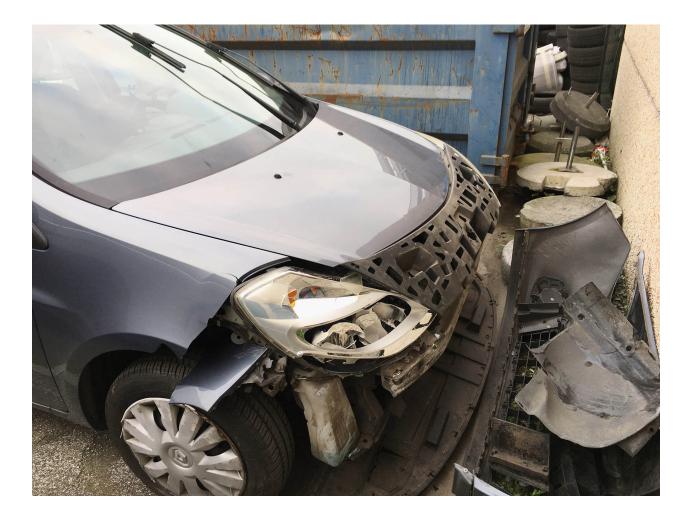
16:46:11

### the-documents.c

In June, 2014, a severe hailstorm hit Belgium. Warnings were broadcast. A football game between the national teams of Belgium and Tunisia was paused. The morning after, there were small dents in the hood and the roof of the car, each a square centimeter in size, some 10 centimeters separated from each other. The storm didn't get a name.

Assessing the damage, the insurance company's expert took the dents into account to establish the wreck's worth.

## org Crash (1)



type photograph date 16.10.2020 filename IMG\_2236.JPG size 2,8MB author Arnout De Cleene

category automobile, crash, precipitation, insurance

## 16:46:57

A year ago I moved into Solange's appartement. From the balcony, I see half the parking lot and the adjacent high rise. On the mailbox, I haven't replaced her name for mine.

1. GARAGE PAUL, (+32) 0489. 764 540 / rectoverso NL/FR 2. CASH 24, (+32) 0466 15 32 16 / recto-verso NL/FR 3. GARAGE NADIM (+32) 0470 606 474 / rectoverso NL(1) 4. GARAGE NADIM (+32) 0470 606 474 / rectoverso FR (2) 5. GARAGE GABRIEL (+32) 0489 76 45 40 / recto-verso NL (1) 6. GARAGE GABRIEL (+32) 0489 76 45 40 / recto-verso FR (2) 7. MAGNUM's (+32) 0492 92 70 70 / recto-verso FR 8. GARAGE ROBERT (+32) 0492 92 70 70 / rectoverso FR (1) 9. GARAGE ROBERT (+32) 0492 92 70 70 / rectoverso FR (2)

I don't know whether Solange owned a car.

Notes



Bieke Criel, lives and works in Gent (BE). Intrigued by landscape, movement, light and the poetics of what lies in between. Does not own a car, loves to drive one. Part of 019.

#### Garage Paul > Garage Robert (collection of 2023) org



type scan date 17.01.2024

g

biekecriel\_scan\_6MB\_jpeg\_Doc.1\_.jp

size 6 MB

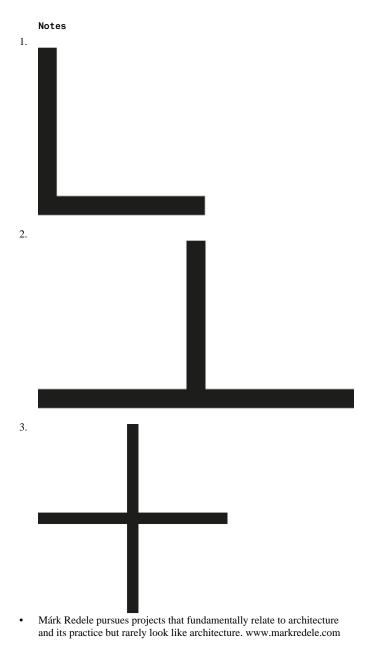
author Bieke Criel

category archive, automobile, card, collecting

#### 16:47:23

K. says that the stall where he usually buys fruit has already been packed up. But he is not worried about the quality of the fruit the other vendor sells. He gestures encouragingly.

Five signs of type-1, eleven of type-2 and two of type-3 are visible. Four of type-2 (two visible, two deduced) and two of type-3 retain two vehicles.



## org Market



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	26.12.2021	marketjpg	3,82 MB	Márk Redele

category automobile, economy, food, fruit, landscape, manual, parking, precipitation, sign

16:48:01