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generating documents of all sorts. It documents documents.
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Tipp-Ex, Waybill, Gold Varnish, Bent Concrete**

09.07.2021

A white Mercedes van inserts in front of me in a traffic jam near Antwerp. The back of the van has been altered in several ways: a latch was added to the door,¹ a footstep was bolted to the bumper, a couple of tie-wraps are holding up the lights on the left side.² Traffic is moving slow. There is no Mercedes logo.³ Some parts have been retouched with white paint that differs slightly from the rest of the bodywork,⁴ not unlike a tipp-ex'ed document.

NOTES

¹ Maybe the original locking mechanism no longer functions, or, perhaps, the owner wants to add a padlock to the doors at night.

² Maybe a corroded screw caused the lights to come loose, or a slight collision.

³ Someone might have stolen it. Mercedes stars are often stolen, although mostly from the hood.

⁴ Maybe to counter corrosion, to conceal a mark someone made on the van or to cover up a fixed dent.

Legislation concerning the publication of someone else's licence plate on the internet and the demand to blur it, is somewhat ambiguous.



type
photograph

date
06.07.2021

filename
IMG_7538.HEIC

size
714 KB

author
Michiel De Cleene

category
automobile, crash, impact,
insurance, sticker

11:32:04

‘You see?!’

[The man points at the waybill¹ on the floor behind the glass door that closes off the abandoned and dismantled hall.]

‘It used to be here, I’m sure.’

[He looks around.]

‘I’m sure.’

[He turns towards me.]

‘Are you also here for the Leen Bakker?’² This used to be a Leen Bakker. I just looked it up on their website. They are open from 9 to 6 today.’

[He points at the waybill again.]

‘It was here. I remember well. It’s been years. But it’s here.’

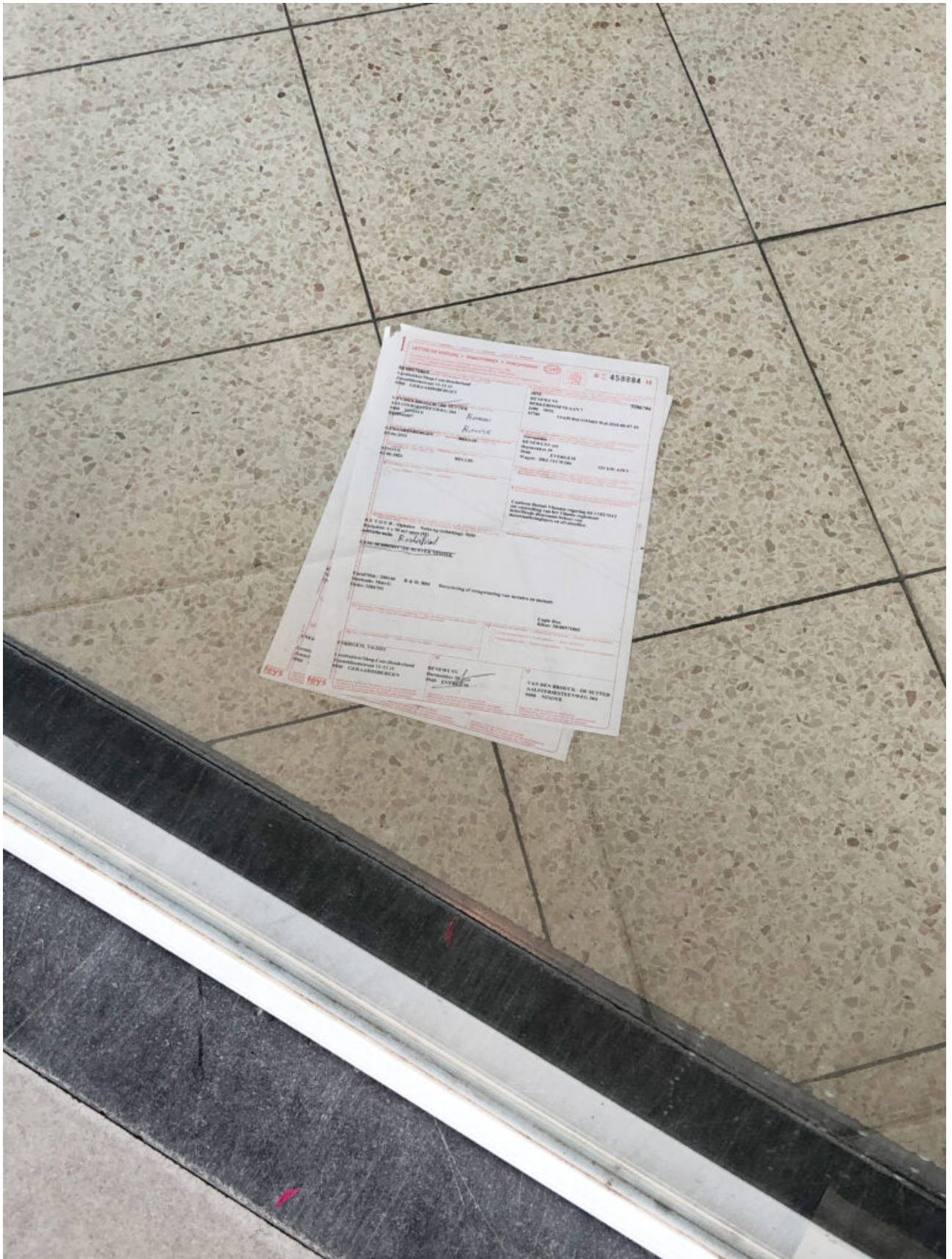
[He walks away.]

‘I’ll look around.’

NOTES

¹ The waybill documents the transport of a 30m³ container filled with approximately 5000 kg of waste from this branch of Leen Bakker to a scrap processing company in nearby Ninove. They take care of scrap, both ferrous and non-ferrous metals. They also have a recognized depollution center for end-of-life vehicles.

² A chain of furniture and interior stores with branches in the Netherlands, Belgium and the Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.



type	date	filename	size	author	category
photograph	29.06.2021	IMG_7499.HEIC	1,6 MB	Michiel De Cleene	decoration, economy, mistake, waste

I'm taking a scan of a family photo album given to me after my grandmother passed away, wanting to write something about the marvelous portraits inside. The genealogy is only partly clear to me: I recognize my dad as a kid, my uncle, my grandmother, her brother in the laboratory he (said he) ran. He smelled of cigars and severe perfume. The older photographs present people I don't know, but must be my ancestors. My grandmother told me stories¹ that, historically, reach further back than the figures I recognize in the photographs. There are no names and no dates in the album. The first two pictures seem to be the oldest ones.² I retract them from the album pockets in which they were slid to check if something is written on the backside. When I take the album away from the scanner's glass plate, particles of leather, gold varnish and sturdy cardboard come loose. I place a sheet of paper on the glass plate and press 'scan' again.

NOTES

¹ Once she (my grandmother) went home from school, sick, with her bicycle. She studied to become a nurse. The school was in Brussels, about 60 kilometers from her native village M. The milkman's van tipping over in front of my grandmother's parental house. A milk covered street. My great-grandfather, physician and mayor at M. Something happened during the Second World War having to do with telephones or radios when she was still a kid.





type	date	filename	size	author	category
scan	21.06.2021	Handgeschreven_2021-06-18_110124.jpg	1,9MB	Arnout De Cleene	book, family

11:32:08

A block of concrete. Fissures are showing and rebar is sticking out from all sides. If it were still straight, the block would measure approximately 130x15x40cm.

It is lying by the side of the road, a few hundred meters from a construction site. It appears to be shaped by impact. Maybe the block plummeted to the ground from a great height. Perhaps, something heavy hit it. For all one knows, it served as a column and was exposed to an unforeseen amount of pressure, causing it to buckle.

According to Eyal Weizman '[a]rchitecture emerges as a documentary form, not because photographs of it circulate in the public domain but rather because it performs variations on the following three things: it *registers* the effect of force fields, it contains or *stores* these forces in material deformations, and, with the help of other mediating technologies and the forum, it *transmits* this information further.'¹

SOURCES

¹ Weizman, E. 'Introduction', in: Forensic Architecture. *Forensis. The Architecture of Public Truth*. London/Berlin: Sternberg Press, 2014.



type
photograph

date
03.06.2021

filename
_44A7339.dng

size
42,54MB

author
Michiel De Cleene

category
archaeology, architecture,
crash, impact, mistake, sand

11:32:09

