org is an online platform, collecting, describing, presenting and generating documents of all sorts. It documents documents. Your path through the collection lead along Le dos-cul ment, Original Copy, Launching a Website, Wheelhouse (replica), Mould, March, Thunder Afar, Elevator, Neptune in opposition [17/20] – Remote, Marmara, Directory, Estuary, Wheelhouse (replica), Desiccation, At the copyshop, Album 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 11.01.2023 10:33, printed on ____ and contains 16 documents on 34 pages. (https://the-documents.org/log/11-01-2023-5019/)

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.





This is a trace, and it is not. Ceci est une trace et ne l'est pas. What is a trace? Qu'est-ce qu'une trace? Le document n'en est pas, le document documente. Documents what? Peu importe, le mot 'document' est dérivé du latin docere, c'est à dire... to show, to teach, to instruct. The document is docile, unlike the trace. La trace ne montre pas, n'enseigne pas, n'instruit en rien, à moins d'interpréter. The trace as indexical: it does not 'show' though one can see it. It does not teach, sauf que tout nous pré-existe, ou plutôt, nous insiste, n'est-ce pas? It doesn't: it's never there as such until we name it so.

Documenti! Papiere! Poètes, vos papiers! (Léo Ferre 1956)

Le document. Le dos-cul ment. Le d'au-cul ment. Le dé au cul ment. Mais co-ment?

Butt how? The do-cum-meant. The doc-cue-mint. The dock-comment.

This is a carboard mousepad. Are you happy now? Are you happy? Are you? Now?

document: a paper or set of papers with written or printed information, especially of an official type. (https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/engli

'He's more of an official type.'

A **document** is a written, drawn, presented, or memorialized representation of thought, often the manifestation of non-fictional as well as fictional

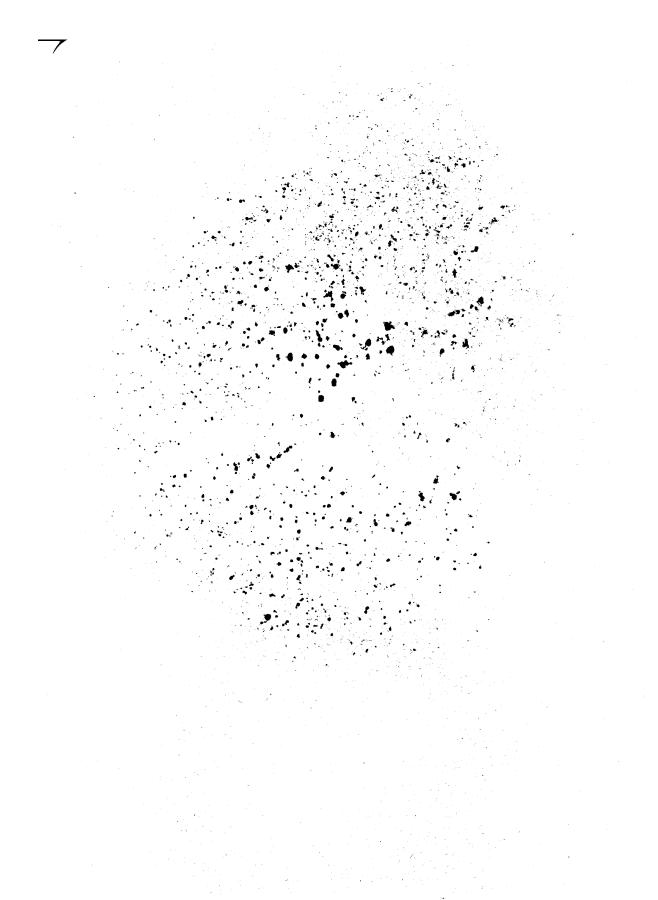
Notes

content. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Document)

'She was quite content.'

Tha back-ass lies!

Sébastien Conard (1982) is a graphic artist, writer and teacher. He draws, writes and publishes comics, post-comics and artist's books. From 2023 until 2026, he will explore the graphic trace in the context of a postdoctoral research project at LUCA School of Arts.



type	date	filename	size	author
scan	06.01.2023	Conard-Mousepad2022.png	115KB	Sébastien Conard

category book, data storage, manual, sign

10:32:36

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

As the hours passed, and while clouds continuously kept us from seeing stars and planets, we started to photograph the set-up used to launch this website. To highlight the umbrella that protected the gear from the unpredictable bursts of rain, we used a flashlight: during the thirty second long exposure, it was lit for two seconds. This proved to be enough to give the whole the feel of an untampered, realistic view. Meanwhile, the website was in all likelihood streaming a grey haze, as the telescope was pointed to the fleeting clouds and gradually spinning along with the earth's movement to keep track of the same invisible celestial bodies. As we returned to the base, planet Jupiter had become visible to the naked eye.



brg Launching a Website

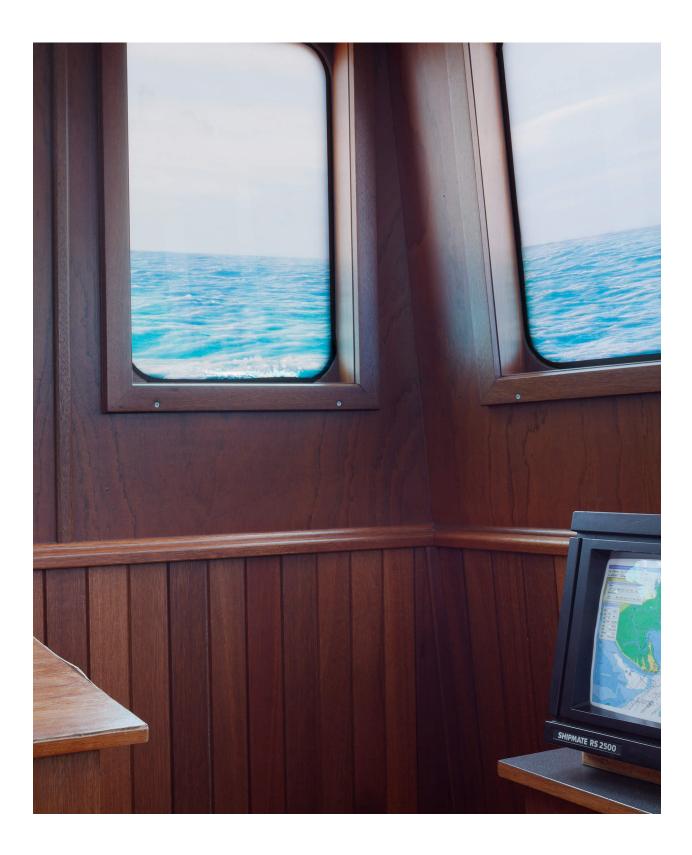


type photograph date 26.05.2021 filename _44A0953.DNG size 44,52MB author De Cleene De Cleene

category astronomy, mirror, technology, precipitation

The GPS-plotter displays the ship near Keyhaven Lake, indefinitely. The sea appears calm, the horizon is level from one perspective.

brg Wheelhouse (replica)



type photograph date 20.03.2022 filename bridge_001.jpg size 15,31 MB author Michiel De Cleene

category map/plan, Reference Guide, replica/copy, sea, sticker, trompe l'oeil

At a dental practice, the white Alligat[®]-powder is mixed with the right amount of water to get a mouldable dough that is pressed upon a patient's teeth. After thirty seconds, the Alligat[®]-dough stiffens and takes on a rubber-like quality. At that point, still white, it must be removed from the patient's mouth. Over the next few hours, the mould turns increasingly pink as the substance becomes less humid. Now, it can be used as a mould to create a positive master cast of the patient's teeth.

Outside the dental practice, the powder's possibilities remain to be fully explored.

the-documents.c

Notes



Sources

First published as part of De Cleene De Cleene. 'Amidst the Fire, I Was Not Burnt', *Trigger (Special issue: Uncertainty)*, 2. FOMU/Fw:Books, 25-30

org Mould



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	27.01.2022	_44A3429.tif	36,81 MB	De Cleene De Cleene

category manual, medicine, packaging, repair, replica/copy

Interior of Eben-Ezer: photocopies and replicas of among other things an *Edit du Roy* and a photograph of a *Marche pour la liberté de conscience, 1956*. Handwritten labels are added beneath the blue frames. Due to limited lighting, and an interdiction to use the camera's flash, some labels are illegible, even when zooming in on the picture. It is unclear what the bottom left replica of a painting is (it has a Brueghelian air to it) and the upper right replica of a photograph.

The walls are made of flint, harvested from quarries in the neighbourhood.

org March



type photograph date 03.03.2021 filename IMG_0149.JPG size 2,2MB author Arnout De Cleene

category animal, architecture, archive, archaeology, brick, replica/copy, house

It's 21:49 on Tuesday May 4th 2021. I'm sifting through the folders of a back-up drive. When I reach Archief2A/2017/wigny donder, the subfolder contains 103 items (97 DNG-files, 1 JPEG-file and 5 PSD-files). The photographs are all very similar. They show the silhouette of the same tree and hills, the red light of the telecommunications mast on the left and the orange glow of the street's sodium lights. The thunderstorm moves from right to left. _44A3920 is the only exposure (10 seconds) that recorded lightning bolts.

I looked up *heat lightning*, also known as *silent lightning*, *summer lightning*, or *dry lightning*, which is simply cloud-to-ground lightning that occurs very far away, with thunder that dissipates before it reaches the observer. On YouTube I watched: *Top 10 Dangerous Lightning Strikes Thunder recorded on Camera (HIGH VOLTAGE!!)* followed by *Lightning Strikes at the 2019 U.S. Women's Open.* It's 22:07, I am doubtful at first but become convinced I can hear thunder afar.



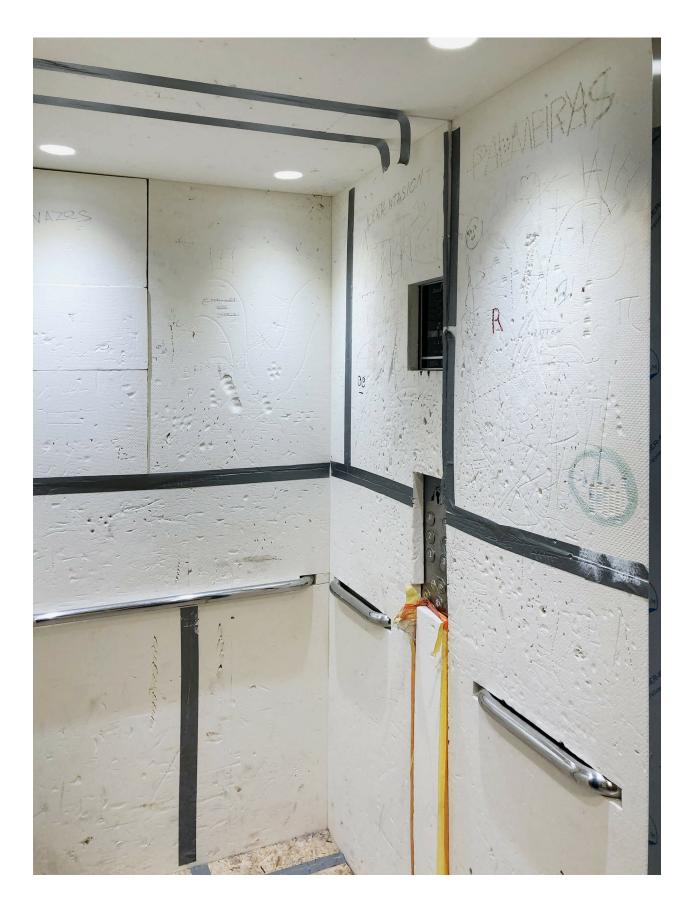
type photograph date 04.05.2021 filename _44A3920.psd size 449,09MB author Michiel De Cleene

category archive, astronomy, data storage, landscape, precipitation, technology

The building is almost finished. One apartment is still up for sale, on the top floor. The contractor is finishing up. There's a long list of comments and deficiencies that need to be addressed before the building can be handed over definitively to the owner. The elevator's walls are protected by styrofoam to prevent squares, levels, measures, drills, air compressors, chairs, bird cages, etc. from making scratches on the brand new wooden panelling.

In 1932 Brassaï began taking photographs of graffiti scratched into walls of Parisian buildings. On his long walks he was often accompanied by the author Raymond Queneau, who lived in the same building but on a different floor. Brassaï published a small collection of the photographs in *Minotaure*, illustrating an article titled 'Du mur des cavernes au mur d'usine' ['From cave wall to factory wall'].

brg Elevator



type photograph date 13.11.2021 filename IMG_0039.jpeg size 2,57 MB author Michiel De Cleene

category architecture, decoration, sign

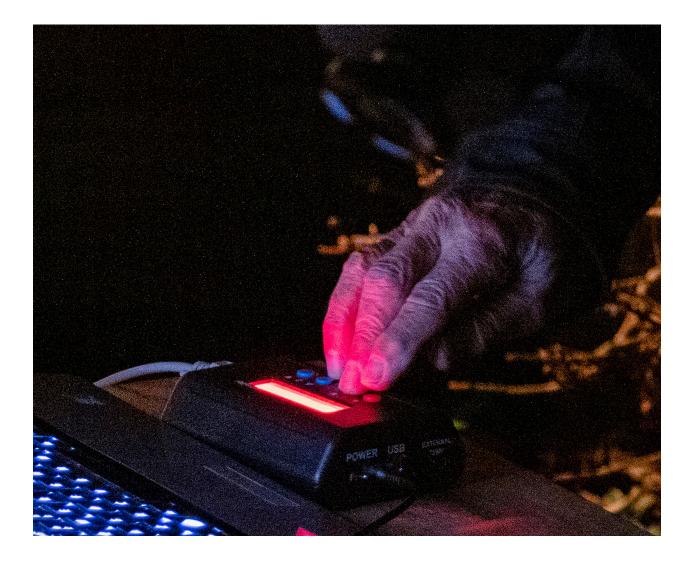
'My backyard is oriented perfectly, I can see the entire southern sky without obstructions. In two years, they will start building an apartment block, though, two floors high with a roof on top. The height is not a problem, but of course it does mean heat and potential turbulence. I just hope they will be well insulated.

This is what I like doing. I have never been interested in remote observations.¹ In my backyard. I hear the geese flying overhead at night. An owl. The silence. I want to be near.'

the-documents.c

Notes

- In the photograph John Sussenbach is manipulating the telescope's focus slightly during the recording.
- 1 To make better images, astrophotographers can rent time on a 'remote observatory': a fully equipped observatory located in a less light-polluted region and with a more stable atmosphere than the one the average amateur astronomer lives in. A command given from a computer directs a massive telescope in Chile towards a desired spot.



type photograph date 02.10.2022 filename _44A6751.dng size 48,84 MB author De Cleene De Cleene

category animal, astronomy, house, Neptune, technology

Fairly detailed map of the two major marble quarries on the island of Tinos, Greece. The spontaneous route-advice was prepared by a local marble worker, P.D., in the Karia region of the island on a locally extracted, green marble slab. The waved lines represent roads traversing uphill, while the straight lines represent roads following a contour line of the topography.

'Tell your friend that the wine is for girls; it's very sweet,' the marble worker alerted my travel companion K.S. after offering us local sweet wine. The workshop smelled like boiled meat and bones.

Notes on map from left to right, top to bottom:

- 1. Towards Vathi
- 2. Quarry
- 3. incomprehensible
- 4. Towards Vathi Bleu
- 5. Isternia
- 6. Pirgos



type photograph date 19.11.2021 filename marmar_.jpg size 3,47 MB author Márk Redele

category book, map/plan, marble, sign, hand

In 2020, the print versions of the Flemish telephone books 'Gouden Gids' and 'Witte Gids' (The Golden Guide and The White Guide), were published for the last time. From that year onwards, the directory could only be accessed and consulted online. The effect of the production of print telephone directories on the environment is considered to be enormous. As yearly updated, ubiquitous books, they were publications that soon turned superfluous. They led to piles of waste.

From the beginning of the 21st century on, both the print version and the online version had been available. This was a period of medium transition. During the last two decades, the print directory increasingly referred to the websites of the companies listed. To search for e.g. someone to inspect the heating installation, it was possible to find such a company's website via the print directory, and consult the inspector's services and price online, bypassing search engines such as Google and its complex algorithms. The telephone directory had a thematic and alphabetical order, combined with the possibility to buy additional advertising space.

org Directory



type photograph date 02.10.2021 filename _MG_7415.JPG size 8,2MB author Arnout De Cleene

category book, botany, data storage, technology, waste

the-documents.c

In between two cities along the Belgian coast, water has run from the dunes (and the Second World War Heritage site scattered among them), underneath the coastal road and tram rails, to the beach. It has formed a small S-shaped estuary, bound to disappear due to the increasingly harsh wind coming from the coast of Britain, blowing Northeasterly, and hammering down on the levee. The vibrations of the empty Ostend-bound tram passing just before the photograph was taken, had no visible impact on the estuary. org Estuary



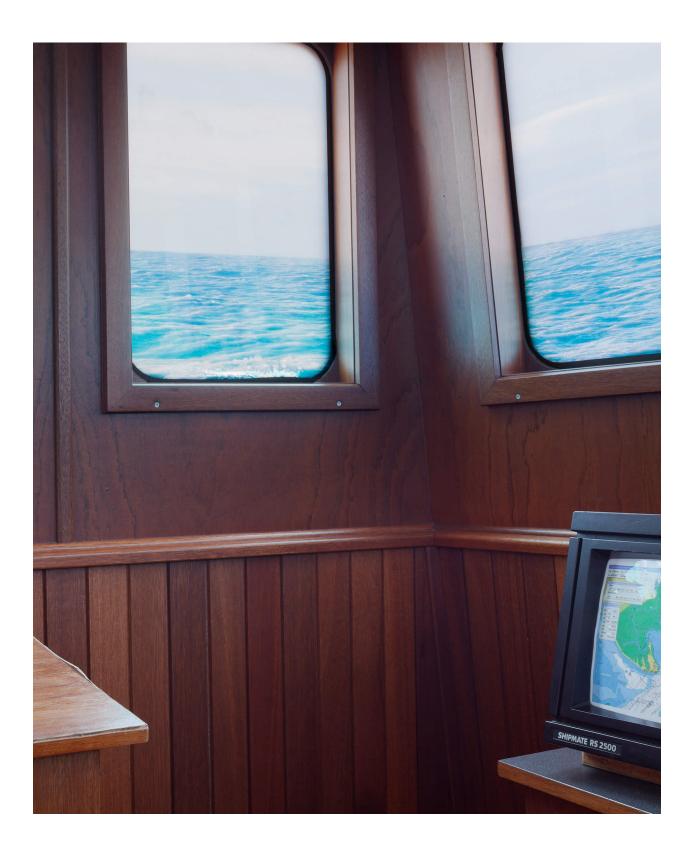
type photograph date 28.12.2020 filename WhatsApp Image 2020-12-28 at 21.45.31.jpeg

size 393KB author Arnout De Cleene

category precipitation, wind, sea, sand

The GPS-plotter displays the ship near Keyhaven Lake, indefinitely. The sea appears calm, the horizon is level from one perspective.

brg Wheelhouse (replica)

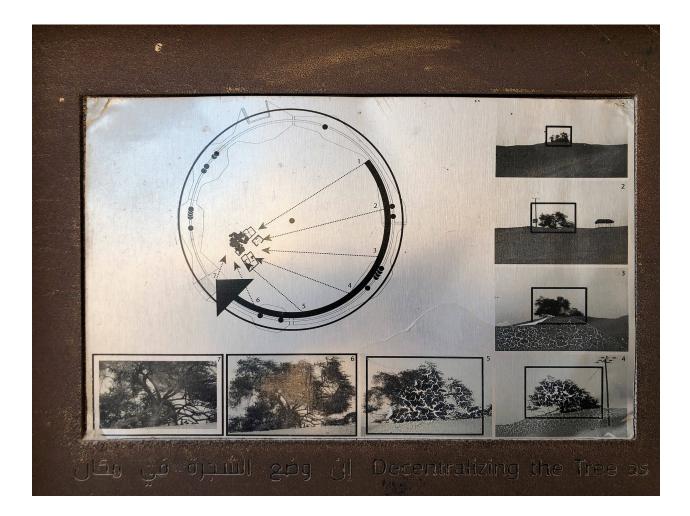


type photograph date 20.03.2022 filename bridge_001.jpg size 15,31 MB author Michiel De Cleene

category map/plan, Reference Guide, replica/copy, sea, sticker, trompe l'oeil

A sheet of brushed aluminium serves as the base for a monochromatic print showing a circular floor plan and seven photographs. The nearby Prosopis cineraria, known as the 'Tree of Life', is a wellknown tourist attraction in the Arabian Desert near Jebel Dukhan. The plaque shows how the recently constructed concrete structure, circling the four hundred year old tree, allows the visitors to see and photograph the landmark in new and – because of the tree's decentralized position – surprising ways. In summer the temperature can rise well over 40°C. The different expansion rates of the aluminium and its imprint cause the latter to crack.

org Desiccation



typedatefilenamesizeauthorphotograph12.12.2020IMG_4888.HEIC2,2MBMichiel De Cleene

category Bahrain, botany, drought, map/plan, tree, fissure, sand, sign, physics, scale

At the copyshop, on a shelf above photocopier 8, the lid of a box of paper serves as the container for 'forgotten originals'.¹

Notes

¹ The book being copied: Didi-Huberman, G. *La ressemblance par contact* . *Archéologie, anachronisme et modernité de l'empreinte.* Paris: Les Editions de Minuit, 2008.



type photograph date 28.09.2021 filename IMG_0105.JPG size 1,8MB author Arnout De Cleene

category archaeology, book, mistake, replica/copy

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