org is an online platform, collecting, describing, presenting and generating documents of all sorts. It documents documents.

Your path through the collection lead along Residu, Schelp, Straight in the morning, curvy in the afternoon, It’s Pouring, Block, Bent Concrete, Subtractive Writing, Roofing (1), Roofing (2), Roofing (3) – Simon, tu me manques, Roofing (4) – Celine & Logan, Elevator, A Transparent Forest, This Year’s Model, View, YAY HOORAY, APOTD, Anraum, Neptune in opposition [12/20] – Culmination, Roofing (6) – JEM, Neptune in opposition [6/20] – Pier, Nap, Mammoth Tree and the Golden Spurs, A Transparent Forest, Backpack, 12M m3 [1/8] Rapid Snowmelt, 12M m3 [2/8] Thaw, 12M m3 [3/8] Swell, 12M m3 [4/8] Dam, 12M m3 [5/8] It’s Freezing, 12M m3 [6/8] 56 years, 12M m3 [7/8] A Fissure, 12M m3 [8/8] Heating, Stopwatch, 12:13, Flashlight in a dark corner of the Oval Room

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 13.12.2025 07:34, printed on ____ and contains 35 documents on 75 pages. (https://the-documents.org/log/13-12-2025-6701/)

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.

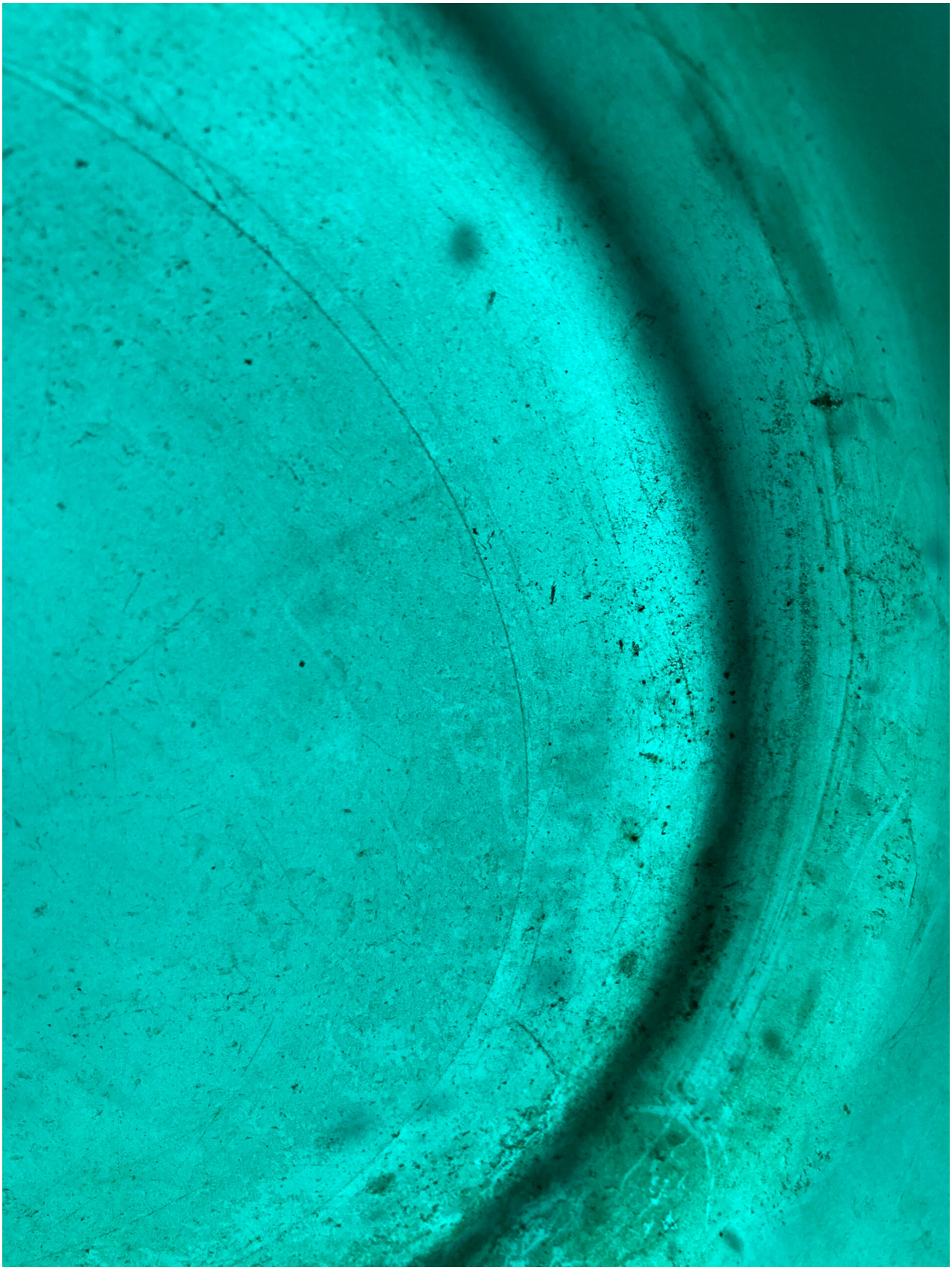
Sources

- 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.



The last couple of days have been dry. Rain is expected for the weekend. The office buckets are in place and are empty, except for some residue. Dirt, sand, a few hairs. Some particles must have come along with the drops when they made their way through the roof.

the-documents.c



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	07.08.2025	IMG_5108.HEIC	3,3MB	Arnout De Cleene

category
architecture, collecting, data storage, precipitation, leakage

07:05:53

Halfway March my dad started finding empty clam shells on the banks of the Zuidlede along the pasture where he used to herd sheep. He had never seen this type of clam before. There were easily seventy of them along a hundred metre stretch of riverbank.

He brought two specimens to someone he knows in the neighbouring provincial domain. She would look into it, she said, and that she would probably pass it on to someone at the educational department.

Yesterday he (my dad) received a printout of the Dutch wikipedia-page on the Brakwaterstrandschelp (Rangia Cuneata). On the page Paul (who sends his regards at the bottom of the document) traced around the scallops with a blue ballpoint pen.

My dad added in capitals – also with a blue ballpoint pen – that the Rangia Cuneata is an invasive species, native to the Gulf of Mexico. The first time it was observed in Europe was in Antwerp in August 2005, most probably they reached Europe in the ballast water tanks of large ships.

Schelp

INVASIEVE EXOOT

Golf van Mexico

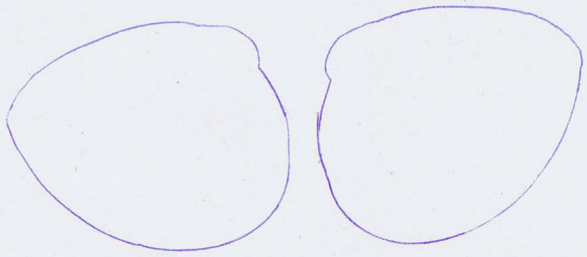
1 van EUROPESE HERKOMST AUG. 2005

(INTRODUCTIE IN BALLASTWATER V. SCHEPEN)

WIKIPEDIA

Brakwaterstrandschelp

De **brakwaterstrandschelp** (*Rangia cuneata*) is een tweekleppigensoort uit de familie van de Mactridae.[1] De wetenschappelijke naam van de soort is voor het eerst geldig gepubliceerd in 1832 door Sowerby I.



Brakwaterstrandschelp

Taxonomische indeling

Rijk:	Animalia (Dieren)
Stam:	Mollusca (Weekdieren)
Klasse:	Bivalvia (Tweekleppigen)
Orde:	Veneroida
Familie:	Mactridae
Geslacht:	*Rangia*

Soort

Rangia cuneata

(Sowerby I, 1832)

Afbeeldingen op Wikimedia Commons

(en) World Register of Marine Species (http://www.marinespecies.org/aphia.php?p=taxdetails&id=156991)

Portaal Biologie

Bronnen, noten en/of referenties

1. Rosenberg, G.; Huber, M.; Gofas, S. (2012). *Rangia cuneata* (Sowerby I, 1832). Geraadpleegd via: World Register of Marine Species op http://www.marinespecies.org/aphia.php?p=taxdetails&id=156991

Geplaatst op 09-03-2013

*Dit artikel is een beginnetje over biologie. U wordt uitgenodigd om op **bewerken (https://nl.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Brakwaterstrandschelp&action=edit)** te klikken om uw kennis aan dit artikel toe te voegen.*

Overgenomen van "https://nl.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Brakwaterstrandschelp&oldid=53202414"

Deze pagina is voor het laatst bewerkt op 13 feb 2019 om 20:55.

De tekst is beschikbaar onder de licentie Creative Commons Naamsvermelding/Gelijk delen, er kunnen aanvullende voorwaarden van toepassing zijn. Zie de gebruiksvoorwaarden voor meer informatie.
Wikipedia® is een geregistreerd handelsmerk van de Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., een organisatie zonder winstoogmerk.

groeten Paul

type	date	filename	size	author
scan	11.04.2021	schelp2.jpeg	7MB	Michiel De Cleene

category
animal, economy, encyclopaedia, food, replica/copy, sea, family

07:06:02

the-documents.c

On a pile of fresh hospital sheets, near the radiator, the tangerine curtains and the black marble window sill (the window looks out over the parking lot), underneath the two-day-old bouquet of flowers and next to a pile of magazines with a handwritten note on top (about a syrup that relieves slime and tastes like oranges), lie two sheets of paper.

Earlier that day the physiotherapist had come by. Twice. Once in the morning and once in the afternoon. He had each time drawn the first line, as an example. A straight line in the morning, a curvy line in the afternoon.

With a ballpoint pen my grandfather, who is recovering from an accident, diligently copied the examples (31 in the morning, 5 in the afternoon).

Straight in the morning, curvy in the afternoon



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	09.01.2022	IMG_9441.HEIC	862 KB	Michiel De Cleene

category
family, manual, medicine, parking, replica/copy, hand

07:09:55

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.

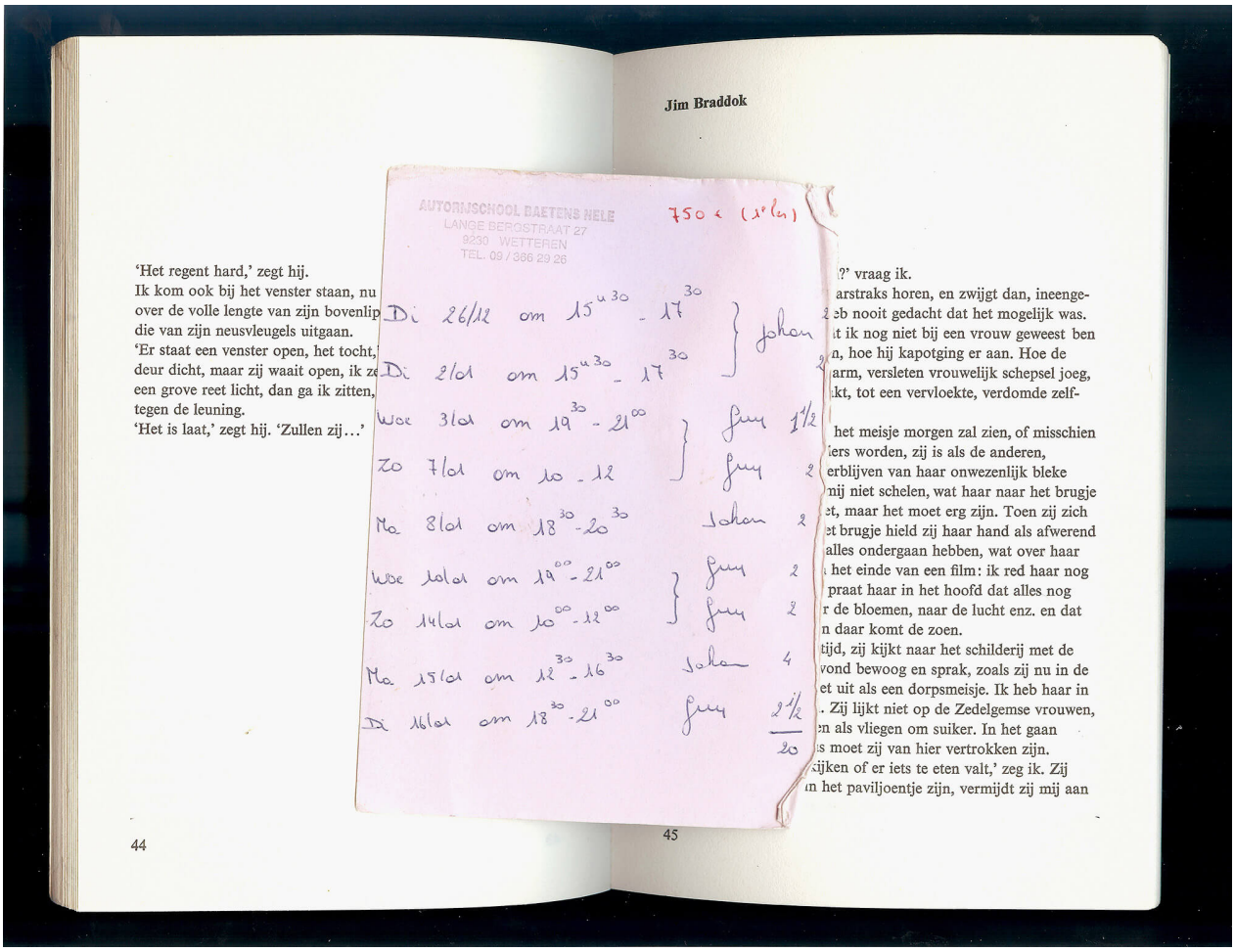
Notes

In 2000, 2006 and 2017 the twenty-sixth of December was a Tuesday. (Earlier years are improbable, since the Euro was not introduced yet.)

Sources

Claus, H. *De Metsiers*. Amsterdam: Uitgeverij De Bezige Bij, 1978.

It’s Pouring



type	date	filename	size	author
scan	09.06.2021	metsiers.jpg	11,61 MB	Michiel De Cleene

category
automobile, book, card, literature, precipitation

07:10:52

‘The masons in training pour a concrete slab and build four walls upon it in a stretcher bond. Then the block comes to our department and the students in the course *Electrical installer (residential)* can grind channels and drill cavities in it.’
[…]
‘It’s not always a success from the outset, but they learn quickly.’
[…]
‘Never grind horizontally, always vertically. Diagonally if there is no other way.’
[…]
‘Two fingers wide.’
[…]
‘After this it goes to the sanitary department. After the bell drilling, the demolition hammer follows and the masons make us a new block.’

Competentiecentrum VDAB, Wondelgem,
July 2019.

Notes

First published in A+ Architecture in Belgium, A+ 279, Schools (August, September 2019), https://www.a-plus.be/nl/tijdschrift/schools

Block



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	04.05.2021	_44a7269.jpg	27,17MB	Michiel De Cleene

category
architecture, brick, fissure, house, mistake, parking

07:11:48

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 130 x 15 x 40cm.

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.

Bent Concrete



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	02.06.2021	_44A7339.dng	42,54MB	Michiel De Cleene

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

07:12:56

In an attempt to make it his own, Gino – it might also be Dino – has taken a can of bright pink spray paint to his hard hat and – as the paint was drying – dragged his gloved finger from top to bottom. G – or D –, I, N, O. In the dust on a demolished floor tile, someone has written 12,10. Perhaps a measurement, a quantity, a position, a date, a reference.

Subtractive writing is not uncommon. With the tip of a passer-by's index finger 'WASH ME' is subtracted from the dust on a dirty car. In freshly poured concrete, a name is embedded forever with a twig. In hot and soft roofing drawings and obscenities are scratched. Styrofoam lining a brand new elevator gets impressed with names, jokes and knuckles.

In the twenty-third canto of Ariosto's Orlando Furioso (1516), Orlando comes across the name of his love and another man, carved in the bark of a tree. He doubts. But that night, a gossiping shepherd tells him he's seen Angelica and Medoro together. Orlando returns to the forest, and in a four-day frenzy, he uproots every tree and pollutes the rivers forever.

CXXXI
For he turf, stone, and trunk, and shoot, and lop,
Cast without cease into the beauteous source;
Till, turbid from the bottom to the top,
Never again was clear the troubled course.
At length, for lack of breath, compelled to stop,
(When he is bathed in sweat, and wasted force,
Serves not his fury more) he falls, and lies
Upon the mead, and, gazing upward, sighs.[1]

Sources

1 Ariosto, L. *Orlando Furioso*. Translated by William Stewart Rose, Echo Library, 2006, p. 267.



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	05.08.2025	IMG_8280.jpg	1,70 MB	Michiel De Cleene

category
architecture, construction site, dust, sign, waste

07:14:00

Seven very similar and rudimentary buildings take in a trapezoid plot of land in Gilly. They are located between the school on the Rue Circulaire and the houses along the Rue de l’Abbaye. The structures are built of orange brick, concrete structural elements, whitish steel gates and roofing. Every garage has its own number, hand-painted in white on the concrete lintel above each gate. In summer the roofing gets hot and soft.

the-documents.c

Roofing (1)



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	14.04.2021	_44a9887.dng	56,68MB	Michiel De Cleene

category
automobile, brick, landscape, parking, roofing, sign

07:16:20

Five white boulders close off a shortcut for motorists who attempt to cut the bend in the road. The southernmost roof’s pitch runs opposite to the landscape’s slope. The lower roofline is, therefore, only about one meter above a small, triangular patch of grass which is hidden from view by a hedge. In summer, when the roofing gets hot and soft, text and drawings get pressed or carved into it.

Sources

Google Earth

Roofing (2)



type	date	filename	size	author
screenshot	14.04.2021	Schermafbeelding 2021-05-05 om 22.37.00.png	16,98MB	Michiel De Cleene

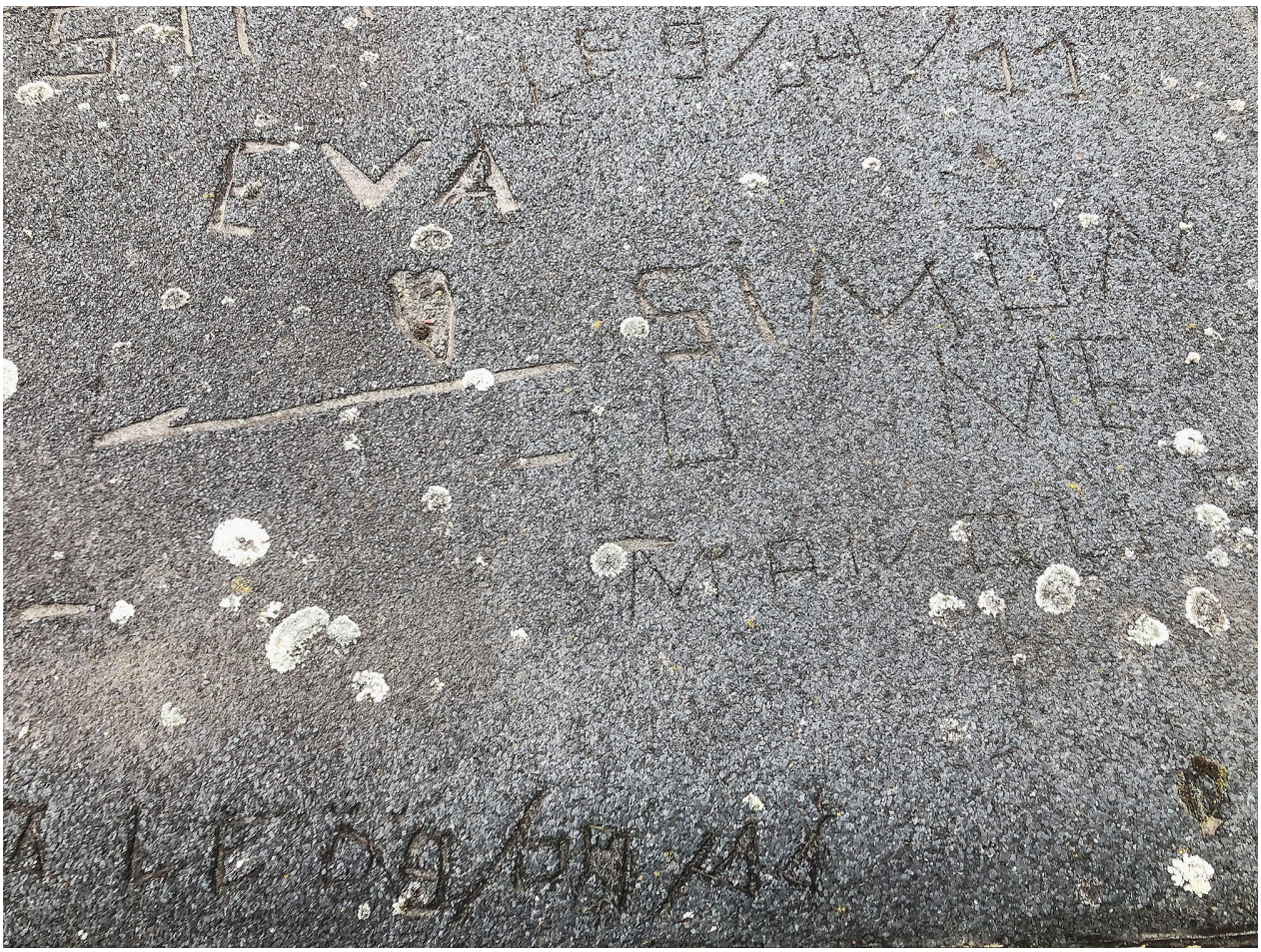
category
automobile, crash, landscape, map/plan, parking, roofing, sign

07:16:55

In what order and by whom the various texts and drawings were carved into the soft roofing is unclear. To the right of ‘EVA’, a heart symbol and an arrow (pointing to the left), the roofing reads ‘SIMON TU ME MANQUES’.

The short sentence usually – yet hastily – translates to ‘Simon, I miss you’. However, in French the ‘you’ (tu) is the subject and has an active role, whereas the ‘I’ *(me)* is the direct object. In short: by his not being there, Simon actively effectuates hurt to the one who carved this text.

Roofing (3) – Simon, tu me manques



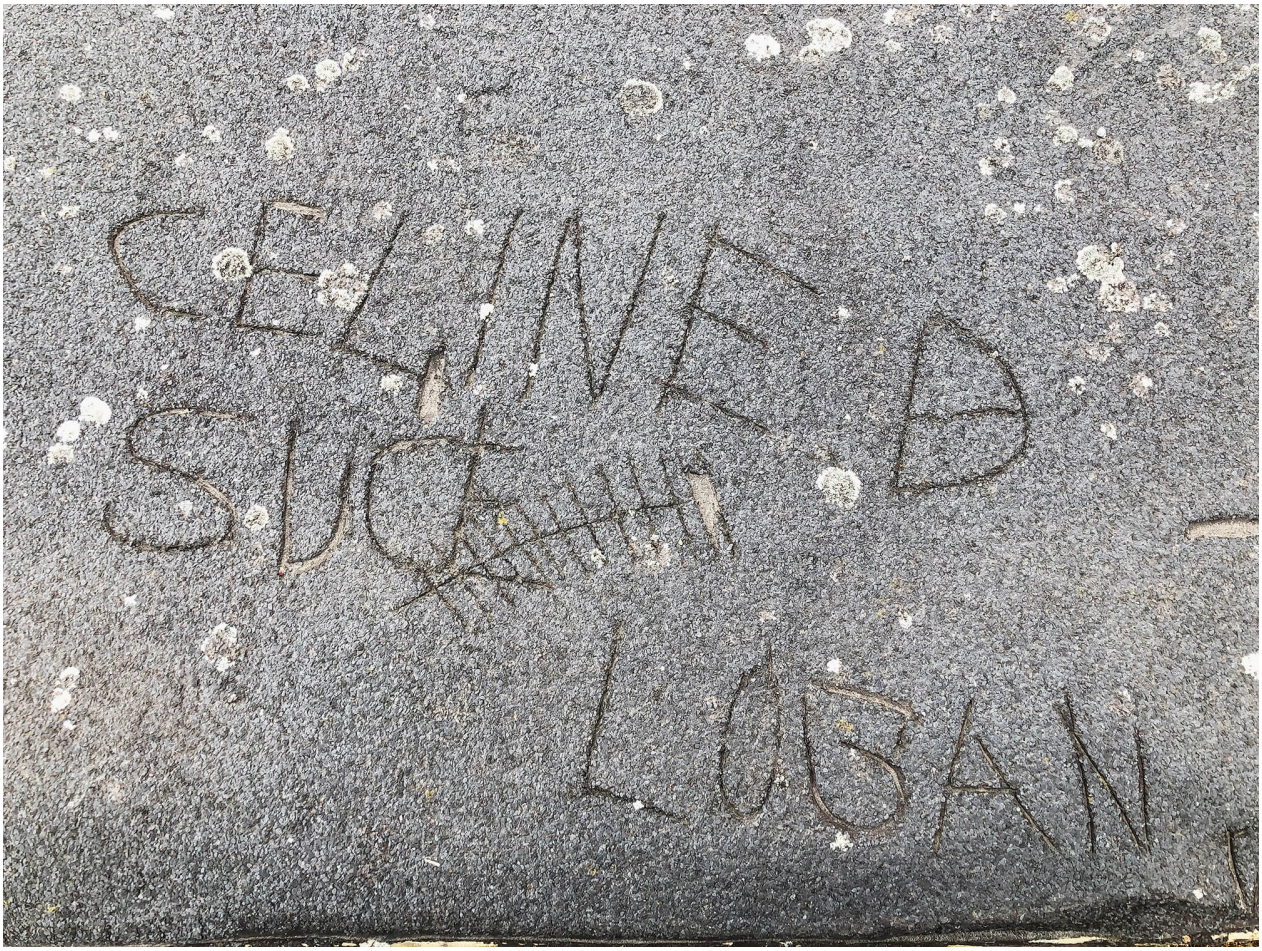
type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	14.04.2021	IMG_6512.jpeg	4,50MB	Michiel De Cleene

category
automobile, decoration, fissure, parking, roofing, sign

07:17:32

A carving that looks like a stitched-up scar (a long, slightly curved line crossed at a right angle by eleven short straight lines) is inserted into a short statement about Celine and Logan. An initial of Celine's last name is included. At first sight it looks like a 'D', but the line through the middle might just as well make it a 'B'. Maybe it was Celine D who added the line in an attempt to convince those reading the roofing that it's actually Celine B who blows Logan.

Roofing (4) – Celine & Logan



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	14.04.2021	IMG_6511.jpeg	7MB	Michiel De Cleene

category
automobile, decoration, fissure, mistake, parking, roofing, sign

07:18:16

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'].

Elevator



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

category
architecture, decoration, sign, construction site

07:19:00

During the second half of April 2018, passers-by complained on Twitter about the massive chopping of trees and bushes in the area of the park site in Ranst, Belgium, along the E313 highway, in close proximity to the city of Antwerp.

Initially, the Department of Road and Highway Maintenance answered on Twitter that no pruning activities had taken place. They wouldn't want to disturb breeding birds. But soon after, they admitted to the pruning. Their argumentation took a turn: 'These are pruning activities in the context of the transmigration-problem on parking lots, as requested by the Police Department and the State Governor, so that transmigrants will no longer be able to hide. In the future, we will take up this discussion in our pruning policy for the upcoming breeding season.'

Upon closer investigation (an inquiry by Nature Inspection), the scale of the chopping became clear. The trees closest to the highway and the parking lot were chopped, while other trees were pruned at the bottom. Species such as European black elderberry, maple tree, sorbus, hazel, English holly, wild black cherry and breaking buckthorn disappeared. Rare species, only found in ancient forests, such as Solomon's seal, were severely damaged.

These activities resulted in what the investigators described as a 'transparent forest' – a forest without density at lower levels, which is ecologically speaking not valuable. It has no 'forest feeling'.

Notes

- In spring 2024 the-documents.org and Trigger co-publish a series of online articles with a focus on the meeting ground between photography and the document.

A Transparent Forest



type	date	filename	size	author
image	27.05.2024	DCDC_ranst_2_039.psd	1,03 GB	De Cleene De Cleene

category
automobile, botany, conflict, government, landscape, parking, Ranst, tree

07:20:35

the-documents.c

‘Because there is a kind of technological beauty to it.’
[…]
‘Yes, a perfect combination of the analogous on the one hand, and a kind of state of the art-futuristic cool on the other hand. It was elegant (unlike audio-cassettes), you could see the disc upon which your music was written (unlike the unfathomable MP3), it was less fragile than a CD(-R), and conveniently sized (you could hold it in the palm of your hand, slip it into your pocket). It had a kind of Mission Impossible-esque gadget feel to it. It had the aura of being permanently ahead of its time, but not in a far-fetched sci-fi kind of way. It was *real*.’
[…]
‘You mean the clicks. Yes, it had a sound of its own. A pleasant sound – the hard plastic hitting the hard plastic sleeve. The slidable, uhm, metal thing. The small read/write handle at the side. The small disc that was just a little bit loose. It – without being played – looked, felt and sounded like, like data, yes, like palpable data.’
[…]
‘Not any more.’
[…]
‘My uncle’s Elvis Costello *This Year’s Model* LP with way too little bass-sounds. *Watching the detectives*, to be precise.’

This Year’s Model



type	date	filename	size	author
scan	26.12.2020	Handgeschreven_2020-12-26_141512.jpg	608KB	Arnout De Cleene

category
data storage, music, technology, family

07:20:37

According to art critic Rosalind Krauss, nineteenth-century stereographic images presented ‘views’, not ‘landscapes’. Looking at a stereographic image through a stereoscope involves a particular experience that is altogether different from looking at other types of photographs, or paintings, as it is defined by ‘the isolation of the viewer with an image from which surrounding interference is masked out‘.[1] An image of a violent and sudden eruption, higher up on the mountain, hanging next to a stereographic image of a petrified lava flow, would not be perceived.

Sources

1. Krauss, R. *The Originality of the Avant-Garde and Other Modernist Myths.* Cambridge, Mass./London: The MIT Press, 1986, 139.



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	03.04.2022	Foto_2022-02-17_110818.jpgFoto_2022-02-17_110818.jpgFoto_2022-02-17_110818.jpg	1,8MB	Arnout De Cleene

category
impact, landscape, seismology, technology, trompe l'oeil, Vesuvius

07:20:39

Depending on the perspective one chooses to look at the address, the house is adorned or not.
The perspective from the main road is an image made in August 2020, the website (Google Maps) says. Our car is in front of the garage. It must be the end of August. We drive home from the hospital with the newborn, who doesn't stop crying. Maybe I tightened the belts in the car seat too much.
Arriving at our house, we see the slogans and decorations friends have hung at our front door.
On the sill of the neighbour's first floor window, there's a brick that must have fallen from the second floor facade.



type	date	filename	size	author
screenshot	31.12.2020	Schermafbeelding 2020-12-31 om 10.50.02.png	8,7MB	Arnout De Cleene

category
automobile, brick, crash, house, map/plan, family

07:20:42

(transcript CNN Saturday morning news, Aired September 21, 2002 – 07:32 ET)

the-documents.c

THIS IS A RUSH TRANSCRIPT. THIS COPY MAY NOT BE IN ITS FINAL FORM AND MAY BE UPDATED.

MILES O'BRIEN, *CNN Anchor*
Now this Astronomy Picture of the Day goes back as far as the popularization of the Internet. The discovery of what is now Netscape, if you will. Let's take a look at the guys behind it. It's an art gallery of astronomy, featuring explosive supernovas, deep black holes, flaring comets, and breathtaking earth views.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

O'BRIEN (*voice-over*) Every day since the web was in its infancy, two enthusiastic astronomers have posted a new image to Astronomy Picture of the Day.

ROBERT J. NEMIROFF,
NASA Astrophysicist
I think that a lot of these would look great in a gallery. They're very different, there's a lot of different colors involved, there's a lot of different contrasts, a lot of different textures. And, it has the added bonus of being scientifically interesting. It's scientifically true.

O'BRIEN Robert Nimiroff and Jerry Donnell (ph) choose the images based on their educational value, newsworthiness, or just plain beauty.

NEMIROFF
I mean, there's a 'wow' factor here. I usually know within a second or two of seeing a picture whether it's a sure thing for The Astronomy Picture of the Day, because I just say 'Wow, what is going on there?'

O'BRIEN Every image is archived on the site. Underneath each picture is a brief explanation so that the site is not just eye candy but educational, as well. Including images that give us a new perspective.

NEMIROFF
Recently, people put together a bunch of pictures from the moon in this great panorama. You can look all the way around in the circle and see what the astronauts saw. The face on Mars, which the best explanation is, it's just a rock formation, but there's a lot of conspiracy people out there who think it's more, and the picture of the earth at night. And, I think it's one of our most popular images.

O'BRIEN Some images come from telescopes around the world. Others from the Hubble Telescope, peering deep into space. Others, from amateur photographers, an artist's renditions of black holes too distant for detail.

NEMIROFF
And you can just look at it and feel that you're there.

O'BRIEN Many people take the images from the site and post them as wallpaper on their computers, or, create a slideshow screensaver.

NEMIROFF
Our biggest demographic is the intelligent professional who works at some company and has a computer on the desk, has a web browser, and they check us out. We've got e-mail that we're many people's morning cup of coffee.

O'BRIEN Whether you're a space junkie or just enjoy looking up at the sky, Astronomy Picture of the Day is worth the visit.

Sources

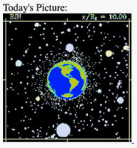
- https://apod.nasa.gov/apod/ap950616.html (original post: June 16, 1995)
- http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0209/21/smn.06.html

org APOTD

Astronomy Picture of the Day

The sky is filled with breathtaking pictures, many of which are available on the World Wide Web. Each day we feature a different picture of some part of our fascinating universe, along with a brief explanation written by a professional astronomer.

Today's Picture:



Explanation:

If the Earth could somehow be transformed to the ultra-high density of a neutron star , it might appear as it does in the above computer generated figure. Due to the very strong gravitational field, the neutron star distorts light from the background sky greatly. If you look closely, two images of the constellation Orion are visible. The gravity of this particular neutron star is so great that no part of the neutron star is blocked from view - light is pulled around by gravity even from the back of the neutron star.

We keep an archive file.

Astronomy Picture of the Day is brought to you by Robert Nemiroff and Jerry Bonnell . Original material on this page is copyrighted to Robert Nemiroff and Jerry Bonnell.

type	date	filename	size	author
screenshot	11.01.2021	Schermafbeelding 2021-01-12 om 21.54.58.png	225KB	Arnout De Cleene

category
astronomy, archive, encyclopaedia, physics

07:20:44

the-documents.c

During the one day course *Safety and Avalanches*, teacher G.T. shows pictures of different manifestations of snow and ice. If one learns to read them, one can deduce the wind direction when hiking or skiing in mountainous terrain.
Wind direction is crucial for assessing the stability of the snow. G.T.'s examples are of Austrian origin. He speaks about 'Anraum': displaced snow can get stacked horizontally against an object, such as a tree or a cross. The snow 'grows and builds into the wind'. Counter-intuitively, the snow points to the side the wind is coming from. One can expect dangerous terrain in the direction of the 'unbuilt' side of the object.



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	14.02.2021	810px-Raureif_im_Bayerischen_Wald.JPG	262KB	Arnout De Cleene

category
manual, mistake, precipitation, tree, wind, sign

07:20:49

the-documents.c

The orthopaedic surgeon left early that morning for his shift at the hospital some twenty kilometres away. It must have been around the time Neptune was at its highest, invisible in the morning sky.

When he got back later that day, we attached a tow cable to the front of my car and the back of his.

org Neptune in opposition [12/20] – Culmination



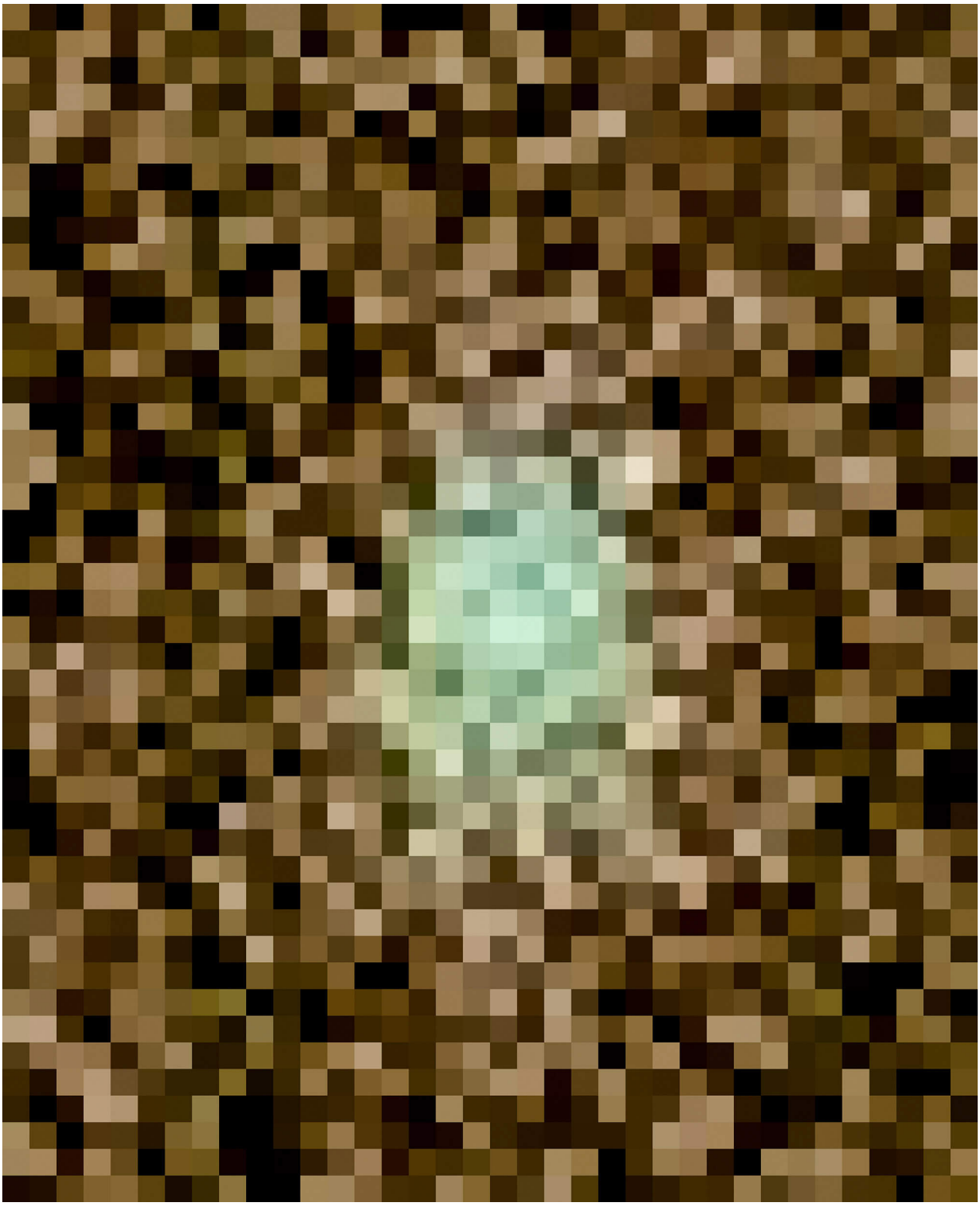
type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	27.09.2022	_44A2295.dng	54,58 MB	De Cleene De Cleene

category
astronomy, automobile, encounter, medicine, Neptune

07:20:51

the-documents.c

Neptune in opposition [12/20] – Culmination



07:20:51

In summer, the roofing gets hot and soft. In winter, it gets cold, hard and brittle. None of the gates to the garages are open. It’s unsure whether the numerous texts and drawings – some dig deeper than others – have caused leakages.

Roofing (6) – JEM



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	14.04.2021	IMG_6510.jpeg	6,61MB	Michiel De Cleene

category
automobile, decoration, fissure, map/plan, parking, precipitation, roofing, sign

07:20:52

As an architectural structure, the pier is fundamental in observational astronomy: it can be found in the backyards of amateur observatories, as well as in professional ones. This column is a quintessential part of the physical interventions that are necessary to distinguish noise from valuable data. The pier disjoints the telescope from the observer, from the observatory and from the surroundings. Tremors of passing cars, the astronomer’s footsteps and coughs, the neighbour’s soundsystem: they could result in an agitated telescope. A falling mug would cause the instrument to shift lightyears away from its target.

Notes

- In August 2019, I visited Chris De Pauw, an astrophotographer, at home. He showed me his private observatory. As we were both waiting for clouds to obscure the sun and get softer light for the photograph, he told me about the rolling shed, its advantages and the modifications he was planning on.
  On closing the observatory – by rolling the shed over the instrument – he manoeuvred the instrument into its ‘park’-position: an azimuth of 160 degrees and an elevation of 8 degrees above the horizon. The shed’s doors and hinges barely cleared the telescope.

Neptune in opposition [6/20] – Pier



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	21.09.2022	_44A7375.dng, _44A7394.dng	55,61 MB, 56,96 MB	De Cleene De Cleene

category
architecture, astronomy, encounter, Neptune, technology

07:20:56

the-documents.c



07:20:56

It’s time to have a nap. I tilt the window over its middle axis to let the butterfly out. A breeze ruffles the drapes. Now, it sits on the glass and throws an enormous shadow on the yellow cloth.

the-documents.c

Nap



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	06.01.2025	_MG_9406.JPG; _MG_9429.JPG	6,1 MB; 10,2 MB	Arnout De Cleene

category
animal, cloth, decoration, encounter, family, scale, wind

07:20:59

the-documents.c



Between the rhinos and the kangaroos in the Antwerp Zoo a wooden footpath curves through a grove of Sequoiadendron Giganteum trees. In the middle of this Californian forest, visitors find the giant slice of a felled tree of the same species. It was brought to the zoo in 1962 and was approximately 650 years old at the time. Eleven labels point out significant moments in history on the tree's growth rings. They range from zoo- and zoology-related moments (for instance: '1901: The Okapi is described as a species', or '1843: Foundation of the RZSA and opening of the Zoo', or '1859: Darwin publishes *The Origin of Species*', etc.), to cultural and historical milestones ('1555: Plantijn starts publishing books in Antwerp', or '1640: Rubens (baroque painter) dies', or '1492: Columbus in America'). Another label points to the last growth ring and reads: '1962: this tree is felled and this tree disc is installed at the Zoo.'

The label pointing to the centre of the tree implies a simultaneity between the tree's first growth year and the Battle of the Golden Spurs in 1302.

Notes

On closer inspection the slice seems to consist of two halves that were put together like a jigsaw puzzle. The resulting gap is skilfully patched with what appears to be wood from the same species – possibly even the same mammoth tree.

Mammoth Tree and the Golden Spurs



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	15.05.2021	IMG_6958.HEIC	1,9MB	Michiel De Cleene

category
animal, book, botany, card, tree

07:21:13

During the second half of April 2018, passers-by complained on Twitter about the massive chopping of trees and bushes in the area of the park site in Ranst, Belgium, along the E313 highway, in close proximity to the city of Antwerp.

Initially, the Department of Road and Highway Maintenance answered on Twitter that no pruning activities had taken place. They wouldn't want to disturb breeding birds. But soon after, they admitted to the pruning. Their argumentation took a turn: 'These are pruning activities in the context of the transmigration-problem on parking lots, as requested by the Police Department and the State Governor, so that transmigrants will no longer be able to hide. In the future, we will take up this discussion in our pruning policy for the upcoming breeding season.'

Upon closer investigation (an inquiry by Nature Inspection), the scale of the chopping became clear. The trees closest to the highway and the parking lot were chopped, while other trees were pruned at the bottom. Species such as European black elderberry, maple tree, sorbus, hazel, English holly, wild black cherry and breaking buckthorn disappeared. Rare species, only found in ancient forests, such as Solomon's seal, were severely damaged.

These activities resulted in what the investigators described as a 'transparent forest' – a forest without density at lower levels, which is ecologically speaking not valuable. It has no 'forest feeling'.

Notes

- In spring 2024 the-documents.org and Trigger co-publish a series of online articles with a focus on the meeting ground between photography and the document.

A Transparent Forest



type	date	filename	size	author
image	27.05.2024	DCDC_ranst_2_039.psd	1,03 GB	De Cleene De Cleene

category
automobile, botany, conflict, government, landscape, parking, Ranst, tree

07:22:55

_44A6588.dng
At 13:26:43 I took a photograph of a concrete building without windows in an industrial zone just south of Brussels.

_44A6590.dng
At 16:46:15 I photographed a succession of office buildings in the same industrial zone.

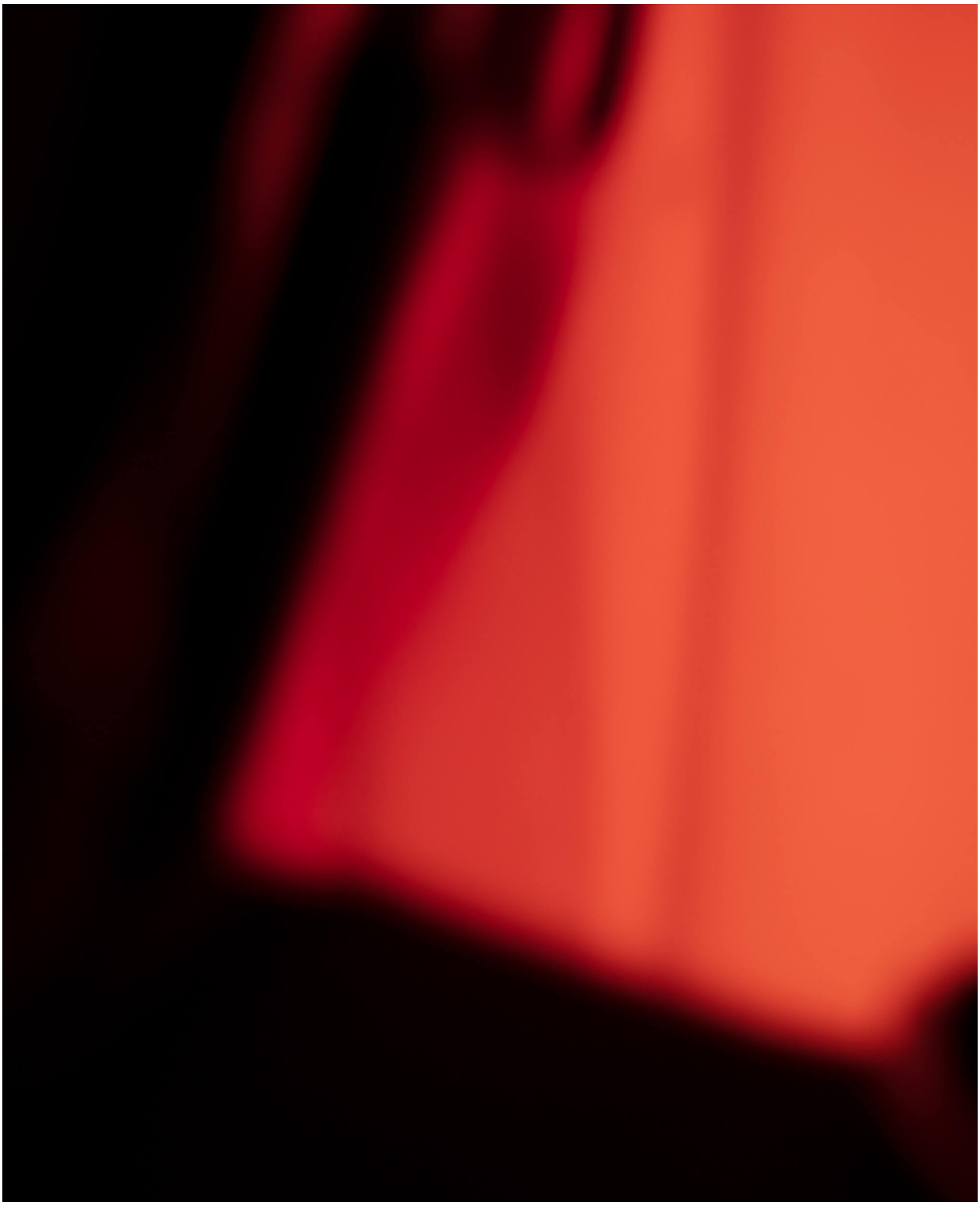
_44A6589.dng
I must have walked about 1 kilometer between the concrete building without windows and the section of the industrial zone with the offices. At 13:43:49, the camera, safely stored in my backpack, recorded 0.4 seconds of the 20 minutes it took me to get there.

In *The Snows of Venice*, Alexander Kluge wonders whether he can take the liberty to conjure up what the sky looked like on 31 December 1799, as Schiller made his way to Goethe's house. He goes on by saying that, historically, there's a 'LACK OF SENSORY ATTENTION AT CRUCIAL MOMENTS'.[1] There are exceptions, though, like the cameraman that was sent out to document the fireworks on New Year's Day 2000. The camera was turned on prematurely. The batteries were used up by midnight, but 'certain gray tones, however, filtered through the cracks of its protective case, conveyed the motion of the walking cameraman, the transportation. The incompletely shut, low-information container was documented exactly […] To this day it provides inexact testimony as to the qualities of the leather of a twenty-first century carrying case and the precise sensitivity to light and dark demonstrated by a twenty-first century recording medium.'[2]

Sources

1 Lerner, B., Kluge, A. *The Snows of Venice*. Leipzig: Spector Books, 2018, p. 53
2 Ibid.

org Backpack



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	15.02.2022	_44A6589.dng	37,87 MB	Michiel De Cleene

category
architecture, data storage, mistake, packaging, technology

07:24:35

December, 1947. Rapid snowmelt coincides with torrential precipitation. At the bottom of the Thur valley, in Wildenstein, the water gathers.

the-documents.c

12M m3 [1/8] Rapid Snowmelt



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	29.11.2021	IMG_0504b.jpg	8,68 MB	Michiel De Cleene

category
landscape, precipitation

07:26:32

the-documents.c

It snows on December 19, but the situation changes on the 22nd with the arrival of an Atlantic low-pressure area, bringing masses of hot and humid air. Thaw follows.

And then, it snows again on December 26 and 27, before the arrival of a new warm front on the same day. A significant and brutal rise in temperature ensues: at Lac Noir, at 920 m, the temperature shoots up from 0,3 °C on December 27 at 7 AM to 7,4 ° C on the 28th at 9 PM.

12M m3 [2/8] Thaw



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	30.11.2021	IMG_0506b.jpg	5,31 MB	Michiel De Cleene

category
landscape, precipitation

07:26:54

The river swells and eventually overflows, causing the death of six people and extensive damage: washed away bridges, damaged homes, submerged factories, destroyed food stocks, heavily eroded roads and paths.

the-documents.c

12M m3 [3/8] Swell



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	01.12.2021	IMG_0507b.jpg	6,12 MB	Michiel De Cleene

category
impact, landscape, precipitation

07:27:38

Seven years after the devastating flood, in 1954, the building of the dam is decided upon. Between 1959 and 1963 the infrastructure is built, and the reservoir gets filled with water in 1964 to act as a buffer for sudden floods and to guarantee a flowing Thur through the highly industrialized area downstream.

the-documents.c

org 12M m3 [4/8] Dam



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	02.12.2021	IMG_0510b.jpg	5,85 MB	Michiel De Cleene

category
architecture, drought, economy, landscape, precipitation

07:28:00

On January 23, 2020 a young couple walks around the drained reservoir of Kruth-Wildenstein.

It’s freezing. They’re expecting their first child within a month.

the-documents.c

12M m3 [5/8] It’s Freezing



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	04.12.2021	IMG_0509b.jpg	3,31 MB	Michiel De Cleene

category
family, landscape

07:28:29

Where once there was twelve million cubic metres of water, excavators and trucks are moving dirt and rocks that have been hidden from sight for 56 years; piling them up into a temporary dam: a *batardeau*.

the-documents.c

orgg 12M m3 [6/8] 56 years



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	05.12.2021	IMG_0512b.jpg	6,68 MB	Michiel De Cleene

category
drought, landscape, repair

07:28:44

What they took for ice that slid down the dam’s slope, appears to be the reason for draining the reservoir: a fissure in the watertight layer. The dam became unreliable.

the-documents.c

12M m3 [7/8] A Fissure



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	06.12.2021	IMG_0515b	5,42 MB	Michiel De Cleene

category
fissure, landscape, mistake, repair

07:29:04

Shortly after crossing the Thur the couple reaches their car. They’re freezing. As the sun sets they drive through the mountainous landscape. The heating hurts their fingers.

The next day, they return, but the scene looks different. It’s warmer. The Thur appears to flow faster.



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	07.12.2021	IMG_0518b.jpg	4,38 MB	Michiel De Cleene

category
automobile, family, landscape, parking

07:29:19

He’s wearing a digital watch. It looks like a Casio. It’s impossible to read the time, no matter whether you are studying the high-resolution scan of the negative or the negative itself, with the aid of a loupe and lightbox.

The device had a stopwatch function. When we were around eight and ten, we used to compete in trying to start and stop the stopwatch in the shortest possible interval. The smaller the gap, the closer to zero. Sometimes he would also have a try. We once managed to get it down to 00:00:00:03. Neither of us dared to press ‘reset’ and try again.

Notes



org Stopwatch



type	date	filename	size	author
photograph	10.05.2022	032a-07s.psd	802,34 MB	De Cleene De Cleene

category
archive, family, house, mirror, technology, hand

07:29:53

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.

Notes

- First published in: De Cleene, M. *Reference Guide*. Amsterdam: Roma Publications, 2019

org 12:13, Flashlight in a dark corner of the Oval Room


EL AMARNA
EL AMARNA
EL AMARNA
EL AMARNA
EL GEBRAWI
EL GEBRAWI
EL GEBRAWI