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

Your path through the collection lead along A peregrine falcon in the internal perimeter, Waybill, From Asturias, Into Cantabria, Roofing (5) – UDI, Passing Time Near a Particle Accelerator, A Seismic Change, Magnifier, Desiccation, A Dead Insect on the Trunk of a Cedrus Atlantica Glauca, Raisins, Straight in the morning, curvy in the afternoon, Original Copy, Dust, A flowering juneberry signals a beekeeper's spring, Roofing (4) – Celine & Logan, Battery, Index, F 6, Cover, From Asturias, Into Cantabria, Bent Concrete, Roofing (3) – Simon, tu me manques

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	t was compiled by	on 21.03.2022 19:09,
printed on	_ and contains 22 do	cuments on 46 pages.
(https://the-do	cuments.org/log/21-0	3-2022-3921/)

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.







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].

ſ...1

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

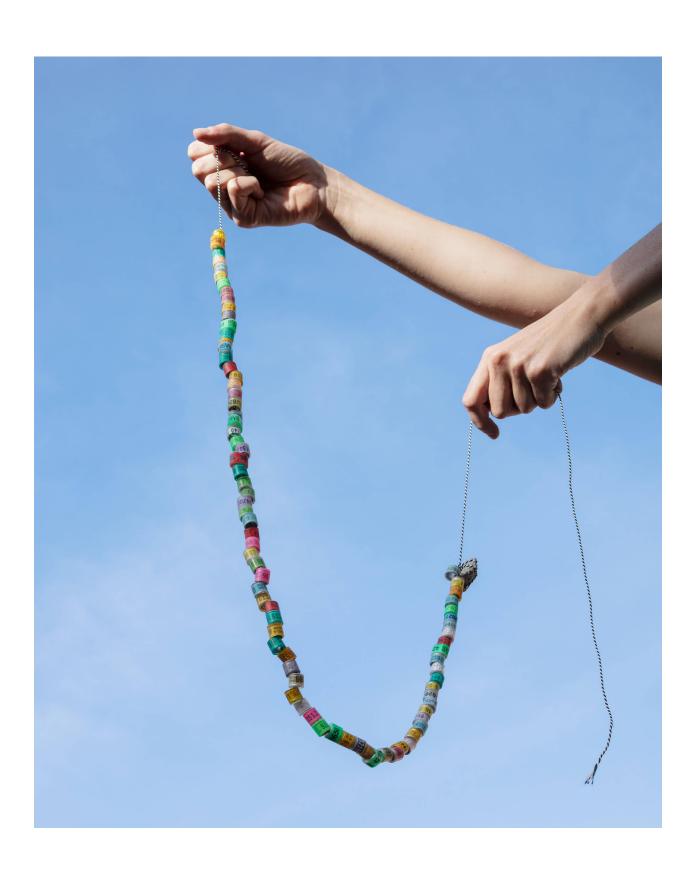
[...]

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

'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.'

the-documents.c

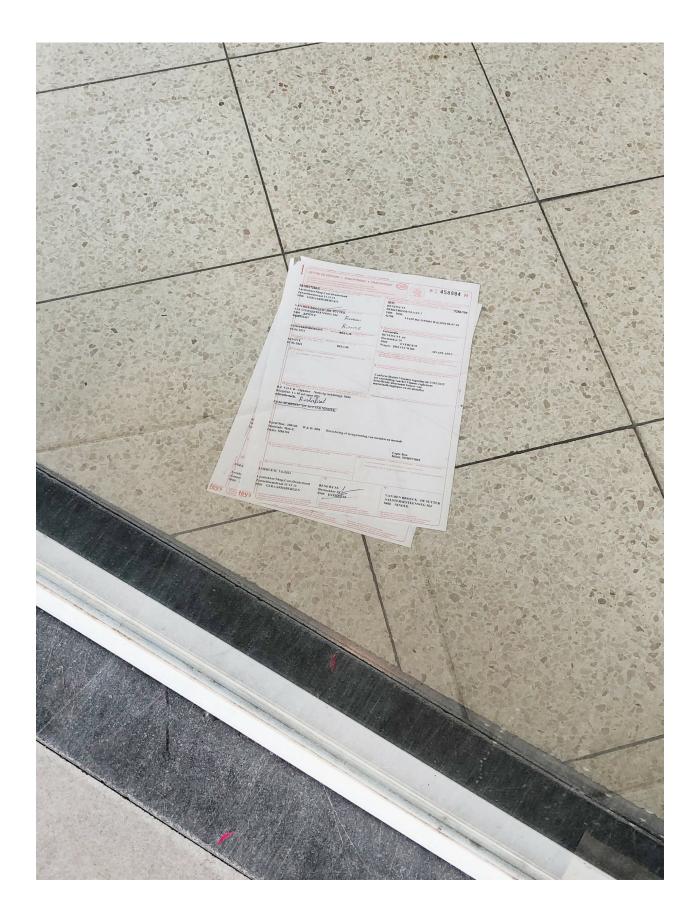
#### Notes

'I'll look around.'

- 1 The waybill documents the transport of a 30m<sup>3</sup> 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.

# Waybill

org

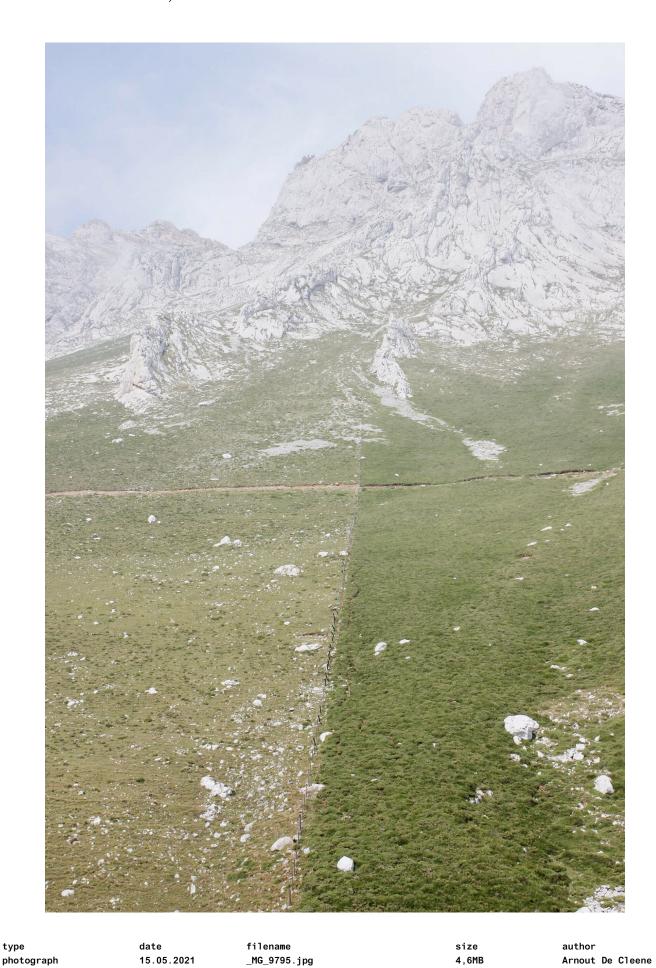


type photograph date 28.06.2021 filename IMG\_7499.HEIC size 1,6 MB author Michiel De Cleene

category decoration, economy, mistake, waste

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



photograph

animal, landscape, government

19:09:16

The torn off section of roofing on the grass has part of a text carved in it: 'UDI' and 'EN' are still legible. It must have come from another roof; the one shown in the photograph has no missing sections, nor visible repairs.

The roofing that is still on the garage shows a drawing of some kind. A floorplan for a squarish building with a supporting column along each side, or the layout for a tactical explanation, perhaps.

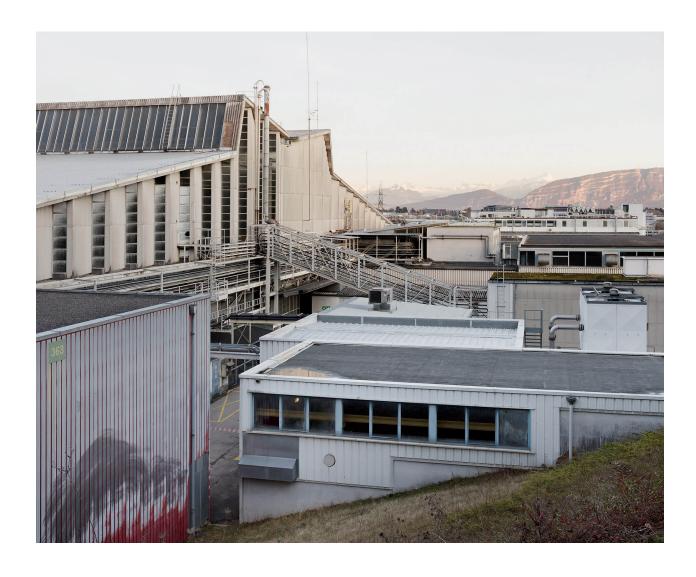
# Roofing (5) – UDI



type photograph date 14.04.2021 filename IMG\_6509.jpeg size 6,90MB

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.

# Passing Time Near a Particle Accelerator

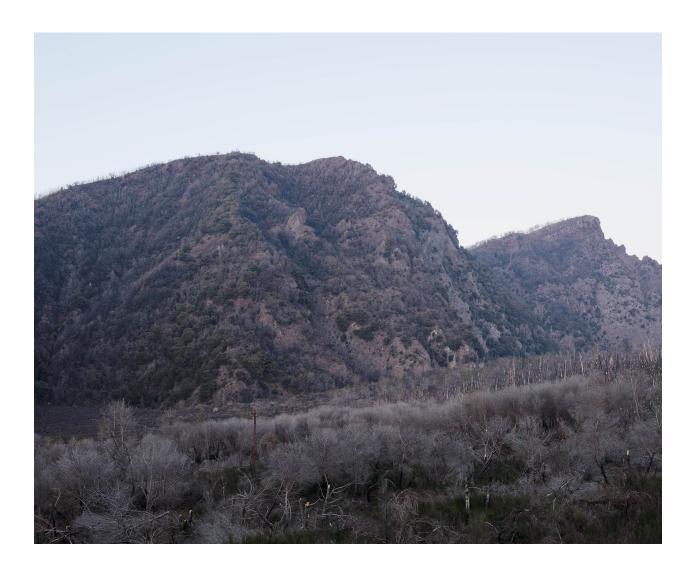


type photograph date 11.07.2021 filename cern\_011.tif

size 57,57 MB

The road down from the top of Mount Vesuvius, at Atrio Del Cavaillo. The sun sets. The last tourist bus has headed down. Then the headlights of the guardian's car swing their way down. It must be freezing. I am holding an orange-sized piece of petrified lava, probably stemming from the 1872 or 1944 eruption. A kilometer further down the road, the old Observatory is empty. Nowadays, monitoring seismic changes is done in a research centre in the city of Naples. Their seismographic registrations can be followed online, in real time. Two headlights swirling along the slopes, underneath me, are coming upwards.

# A Seismic Change

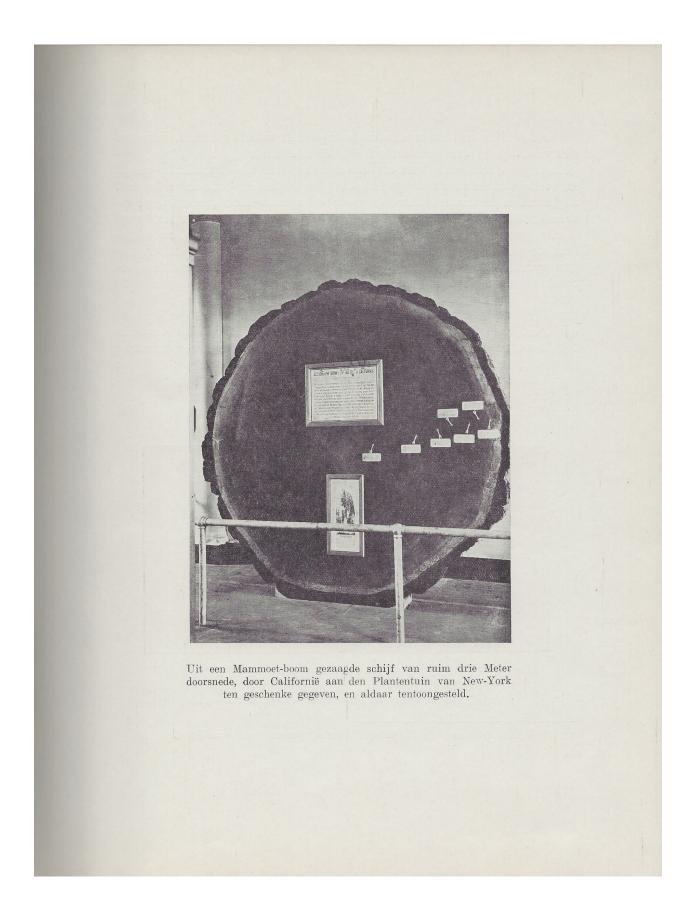


type audio date 15.01.2021 filename A seismic change.mp3 size 862KB author Arnout De Cleene ('Slice of more than three meters in diameter, sawn from a Mammoth-tree, given by California to the botanical garden of New York, and presented there')

Thiery describes the 'patriarchs' of the plant world. This slice of a Sequoia, which fell in 1917 in Yosemite National Park, is 1694 years old. A woman of the New York Botanical Institue, where the slice of the patriarch is presented, counted the rings. If one would look at the picture with a magnifying glass, Thiery writes in a footnote, the reader (with good eyes and a fair amount of knowledge of the English language) would be able to read the labels indicating the important global events the tree witnessed. They are transcribed and translated by the author. The end of the Roman occupation of Great Britain. Columbus arriving in America. The Declaration of Independence. This is a lie: the text is illegible, even when using a magnifier.

In the photograph, the slice, as on view in the New York Botanical Institute, is presented upright. To prevent it from rolling away, two small triangular slices of wood were posited at the left and right side of the slice. The type of wood of these slices, nor the age of the patriarch from which they stem, are known.

# Magnifier

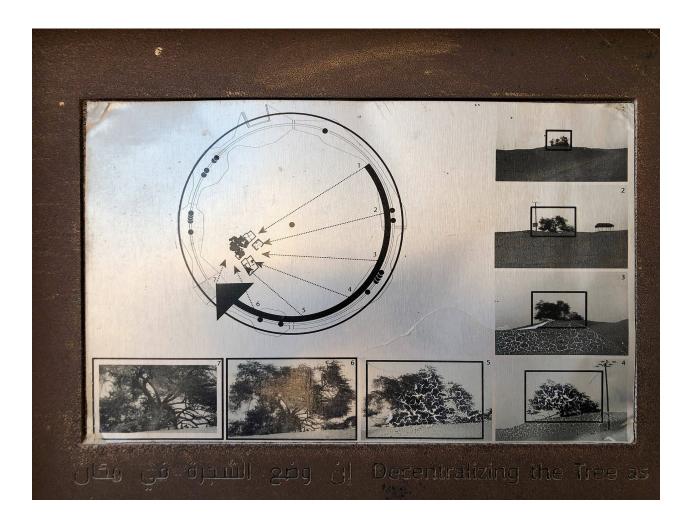


type scan date 04.01.2021 filename

Document\_2021-01-04\_114324.jpg

size 3,1MB author Arnout De Cleene 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 well-known 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.

## Desiccation



type photograph date 12.12.2020 filename IMG\_4888.HEIC size 2,2MB

It's early spring. The pool is covered with a sheet of plastic. The deciduous trees are just leafing out. A tree stump serves as a placeholder for the diving board's foot – it was customary to take it indoors for winter – and keeps people from kicking its threaded rods sticking up from the silex tiles that line the pool.

The upper right corner of the plastic frame is missing. It's probably where the insect – now dead, dry and yellowish – got in. The frame was left behind in the laundry room overlooking the garden, the pool and the pool house. At the time it hadn't been used for quite a while. Half empty, the water green.

In summer, when the wind dropped, horse-flies came. You could shake them off temporarily by swimming a few meters underwater.

# A Dead Insect on the Trunk of a Cedrus Atlantica Glauca



type scan date 22.07.2021 filename pool.jpg size 38,87 MB

When I grew up, my parents told me that the number of raisins in the local baker's raisin bread attested to the result of the most recent soccer match of KAA Gent. A victory was celebrated by throwing more raisins into the dough than usual, a loaf following a painful loss was hardly a raisin bread at all.

The baker retired long ago. Today my two-year-old son picked out all the raisins from his slice of bread. KAA Gent's last game was a tie against Union.



type photograph date 30.12.2021 filename IMG\_9810.HEIC size 1,2 MB

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 photograph

org

date 09.01.2022 filename IMG\_9441.HEIC size 862 KB author Michiel De Cleene

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

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.'

# Original Copy

org

### Wilmar (USA) 1M

Rank: Advanced Member

Joined: 6/4/2015

Posts: 5,721

Neurons: 1,278,032

Location: Vinton, Iowa, United States

date 16.02.2021 screenshot

Schermafbeelding 2021-02-16 om 11.08.01.png

size 45KB

Ten years ago, in November, I drove up to Frisia – the northernmost province of The Netherlands. I was there to document the remains of air watchtowers: a network of 276 towers that were built in the fifties and sixties to warn the troops and population of possible aerial danger coming from the Soviet Union. It was very windy. The camera shook heavily. The poplars surrounding the concrete tower leaned heavily to one side.

I drove up to the seaside, a few kilometers farther. The wind was still strong when I reached the grassy dike that overlooked the kite-filled beach. I exposed the last piece of film left on the roll. Strong gusts of wind blew landwards.

Months later I didn't bother to blow off the dust that had settled on the film before scanning it. A photograph without use, with low resolution, made for the sake of the archive's completeness.

The dust on the film appears to be carried landwards, by the same gust of wind lifting the kites.

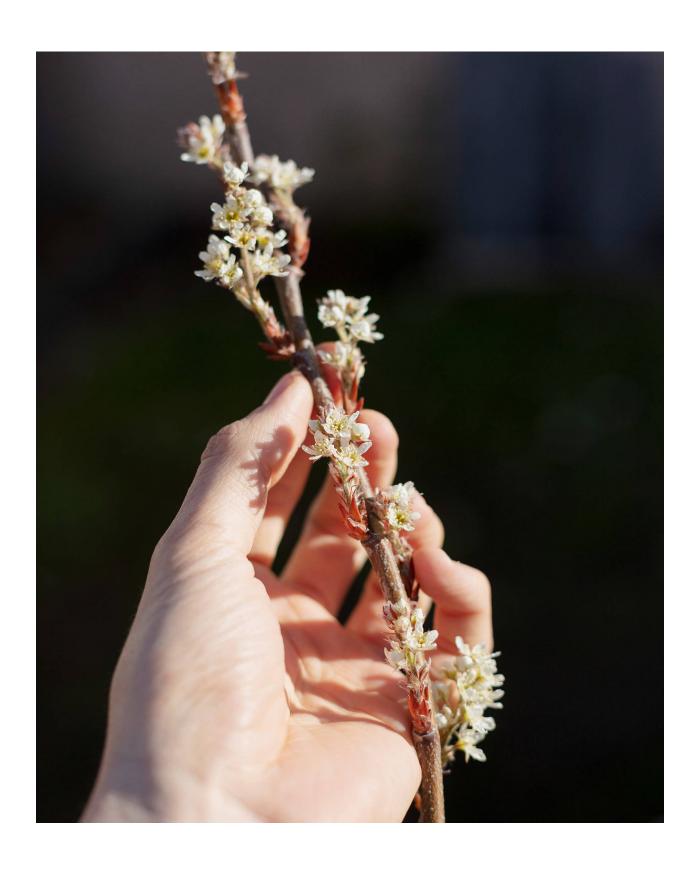
## Dust



type photograph date 06.09.2021 filename LWT-Oudemirdum0002.tif size 28,17 MB

When the juneberry (Amelanchier Lamarckii) flowers, the beekeeper knows it's time to add a first honey super to the hive. Winter's over and workerforaging bees will fly out and come back with their stomachs full of nectar. To avoid larvae in the honey, the beekeeper will place a grid – the so-called queen excluder – between the main compartment of the hive and the honey super.

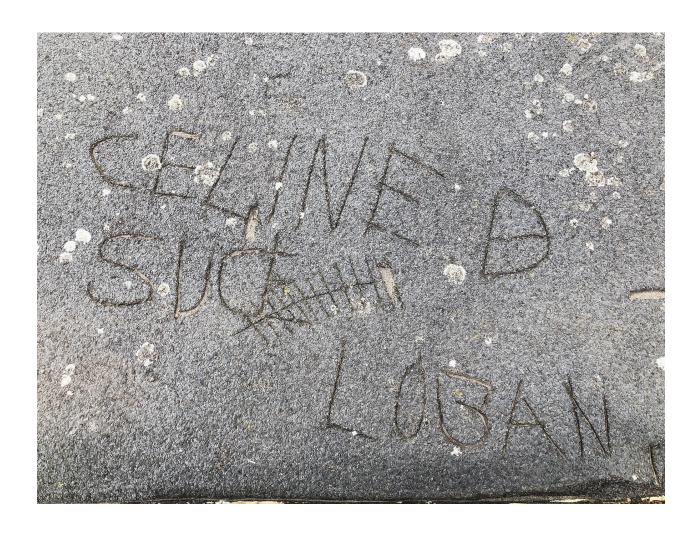
# A flowering juneberry signals a beekeeper's spring



type photograph date 23.04.2021 filename \_44A0321.dng size 45,58MB

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.





type photograph date 14.04.2021 filename IMG\_6511.jpeg size 7MB

Due to strict regulations during the COVD-19-pandemic, the yearly vehicle inspection had to be scheduled by appointment. Getting ready to drive to the DMV, the car wouldn't start. It had rained heavily, the preceding days. The day before the DMV-appointment, water had come running into the car on pushing the pedals. My socks were wet.

I called the DMV to say I needed to cancel the appointment and make a new one (but that the car, besides not being able to drive, was perfectly fine, vehicle-inspection-wise).

Later that day, we got the engine up and running again, using jumper cables and a second car, so we would be able to drive to meet the midwife the next day.

#### ACCU: storing (4/4)

#### Starten met starthulpkabels

Sluit de starthulpkabels als volgt aan tussen de twee auto's:

Controleer of de starthulpkabels, verkrijgbaar bij uw merkdealer, dik genoeg zijn en in goede staat verkeren.

Beide accu's moeten dezelfde spanning hebben: 12 volt. De hulpaccu moet minstens de capaciteit (Ampère-uur, Ah) hebben van de ontladen accu.

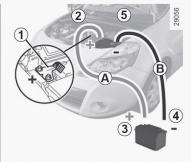
Let erop dat de auto's elkaar niet raken (kortsluitingsgevaar als u de pluspolen met elkaar verbindt) en dat de ontladen accu goed aangesloten is. Zet het contact af van uw auto.

Laat de motor van de hulpauto met een middelmatig toerental draaien.



Sluit de positieve kabel *A* op de **steun 1** op de **pluspool 2** (+) van de ontladen accu aan en daarna op de **pluspool 3** (+) van de hulpaccu.

Sluit de negatieve kabel **B** aan op de **minpool 4** (–) van de hulpaccu en daarna op de **minpool 5** (–) van de ontladen accu.



Start de motor op de normale wijze. Maak, zodra hij draait, de kabels  ${\it A}$  en  ${\it B}$  in omgekeerde volgorde (5-4-3-2) los.



Controleer of de kabels **A** en **B** elkaar nergens raken en of de positieve kabel **A** geen metalen delen van de hulpauto

raakt.

Risico van letsel en/of beschadiging van de auto.

Sluit de kabels A en B uitsluitend aan op de aangegeven aansluitingen.

5.31

filename

type date screenshot 30.12.2020

Schermafbeelding 2020-12-30 om 20.40.39.png

size 954KB author Arnout De Cleene

automobile, crash, epidemic, precipitation, technology, government

In John Berger and Jean Mohr's groundbreaking book *Another Way of Telling*, the index at the end gives information on the images printed throughout the book. Most of them are Jean Mohr's. In the section 'If each time...' – a wordless sequence of images which aims to develop an alternative way of telling a story – some images are referenced as 'documents'. The information is sparse. On page 138, the index states, there is a 'Document, detail'. It features a closeup of a knitted piece of fabric. It appears to be the same picture as seen on the first page of the section (p. 135), where it is printed beneath another image – a photo by Mohr of hands knitting. On this occasion, the image is indexed as 'Document'.

## the-documents.c

## Index

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137 A spring in the alpage, Haute-Savoie
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type scan date 18.02.2021 filename

size 541KB author

Document\_2021-02-18\_092842.jpg

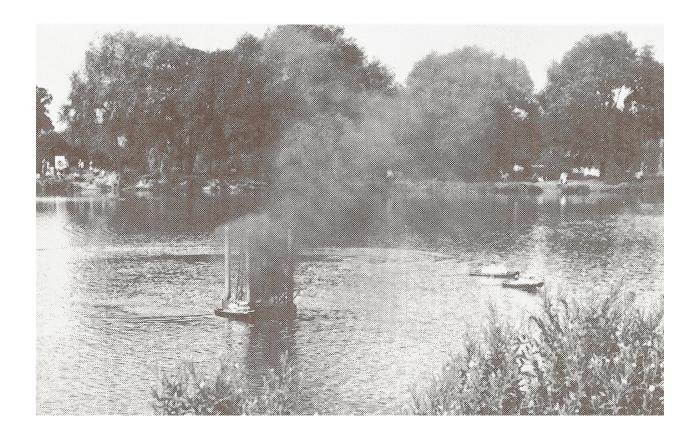
Arnout De Cleene

In his *Handboek Varende Scheepsmodellen* (Handbook Sailing Ship Models) André Veenstra explains the different classes in ship model-competitions. There's a wide variety. For static ship models the most important one is 'truth-to-nature'. A jury compares the model to photographs of the actual ship and brings into account categories such as amount of work, degree of difficulty, scale ratio, construction execution and painting.

The most interesting class – according to Veenstra – is F 6. In this particular class, a number of participants with different boats will form a team. Together, they will perform a certain 'act' with a maximum duration of ten minutes. During the act, they mimic a slice of reality. Such as, for example, 'rescuing' and towing a ship in distress; extinguishing a fire on a tanker or oil rig, lichen and/or tow the sunken wreckage to the harbor, stage a naval battle, etc.

Page 262 shows a photograph of such a mimicked slice of reality. The caption explains: 'Image 14.15. The Dutch demonstration in the F 6 class during the European Championship of 1975: the oil rig is set on fire by a motorboat with terrorists. The fire is extinguished and the oil rig is quickly towed to a safe harbor by tugs. The show was performed by six people and took a very creditable fourth place.'

### the-documents.c

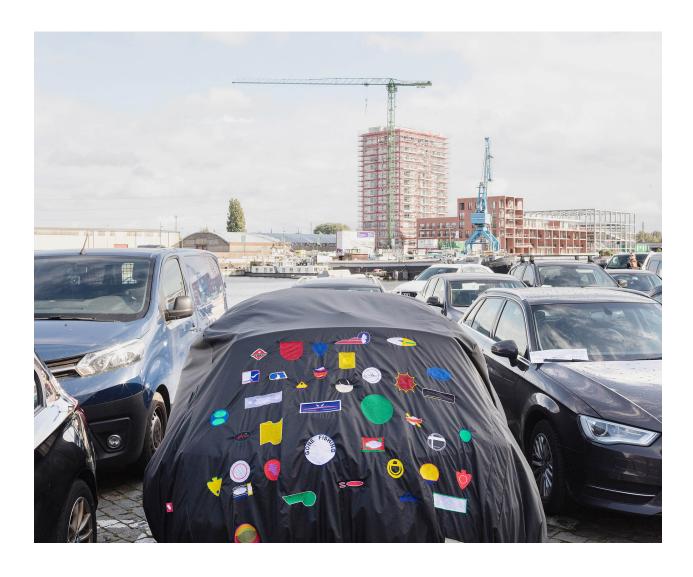


type scan

date 22.06.2021 filename veenstra-b.jpg size 20,17 MB author Michiel De Cleene A year before the crash, Swiss artist Charlotte Stuby designed a tailor-made cover for the car. The dents caused by the unfortunate hailstorm weren't visible. The work, called *Gone Fishing*, was on view during an open air exhibition on the theme of the parking lot. Heavy wind had caused the temporary traffic signs on the parking lot, left there by the city services, to tip over. One hit a car and caused a scratch. It was unclear if this would be something the insurance company would accept. We attached Stuby's cover a second time. Parking fines flew irregularly across the lot.

## the-documents.d

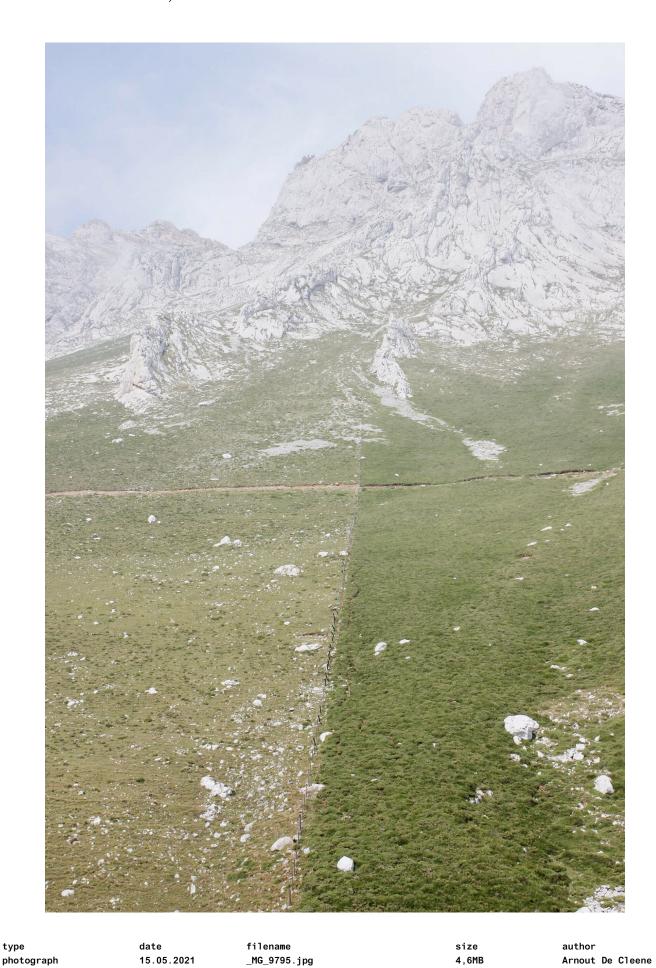
# Cover



type photograph date 08.02.2021 filename P\_016-1024x834.jpg size 377KB author De Cleene De Cleene 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.

## the-documents.d

# From Asturias, Into Cantabria



category
animal, landscape, government

19:09:20

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  $130 \times 15 \times 40 \text{cm}$ .

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.'

## the-documents.c

#### Sources

# **Bent Concrete**

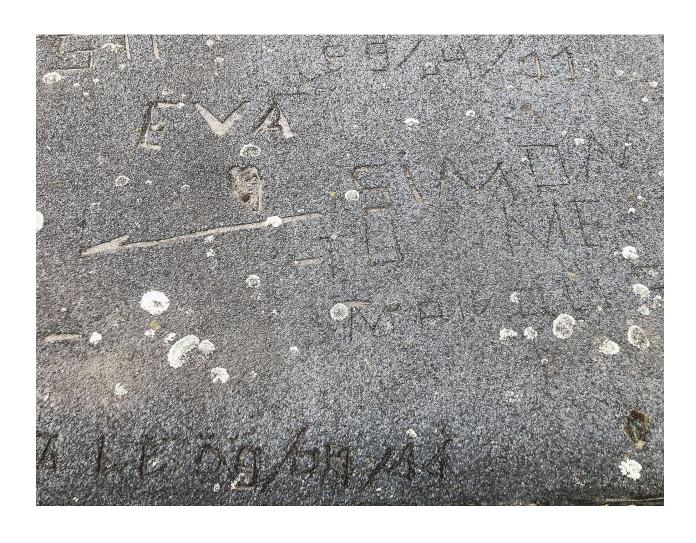


type photograph date 02.06.2021 filename \_44A7339.dng size 42,54MB author Michiel De Cleene In what order and by whom the various texts and drawings were carved into the soft roofing is unclear. To the right of 'EVA', a heart symbol and an arrow (pointing to the left), the roofing reads 'SIMON TU ME 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.

# the-documents.





type photograph date 14.04.2021 filename IMG\_6512.jpeg size 4,50MB author Michiel De Cleene