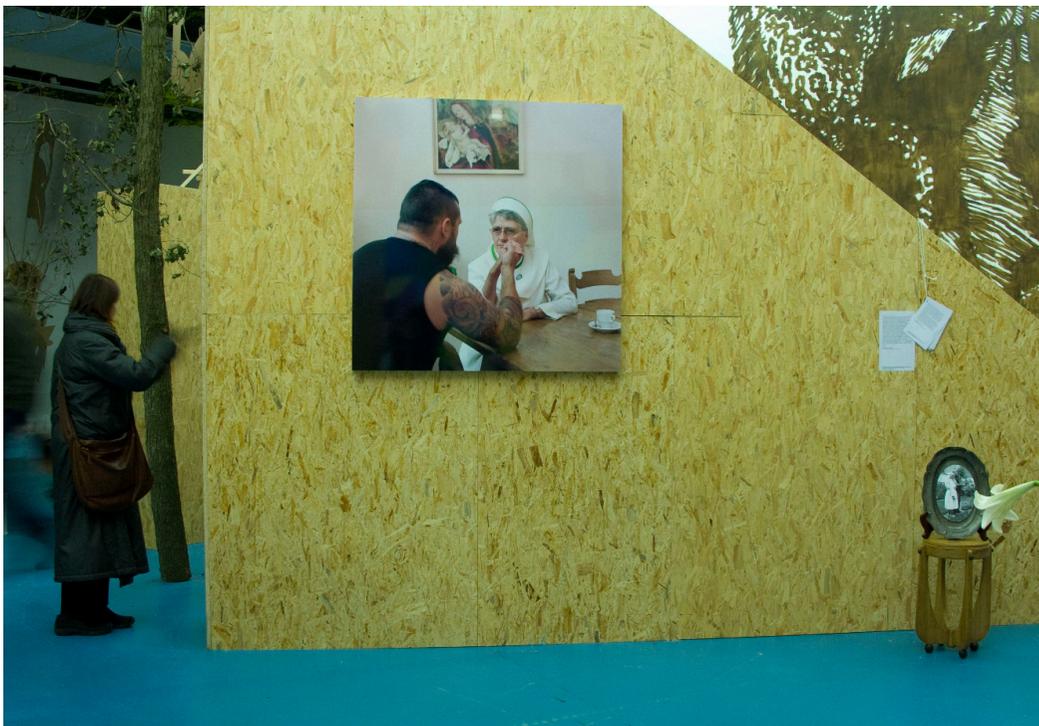


Parade and exhibition, W139, Amsterdam 2008



Banner , Parade Museumnight 2008
Procession of the art-works through the streets of Amsterdam up to the exhibition space.



Z.t. photo-installation, W139 -Amsterdam, 1-30 novembre 2008

In the work of Hieke Pars meetings play a central role at multiple levels. *Untitled* is a piece inspired by the artist's encounter with an order of nuns based at Amsterdam's Red Light District and active in philanthropy. The work consists of two photographs. Each photograph shows a meeting of a nun and a man in a different setting. Each one's looks – the nun's cloth, the man's tattoos, hairstyle and outfit – are loaded with social and cultural meanings. Being so very different in their appearance, the two individuals become in their encounter almost empty signifiers of two worlds they seem to represent. These worlds also connect different forms of power: spiritual and physical, but also the power relations at work between provider and potential receiver of philanthropy.

In the first photograph, staged by the artist and showing an arm wrestling game, it seems as if the actual encounter plays out between the man's muscular, tattoo-covered arm and the nun's piercing glance. In the second photo, originally a random shot, Hieke Pars accentuated in the postproduction process elements that combine a paradise iconography (the garden, the birds, the two persons standing side by side) with characteristics of old photographs as carriers of a nostalgic past (black and white with colour retouch, oval shaped). In this mix of paradise imagery and nostalgic relics of the past, the two figures find themselves once again trapped in an image: the image of reconciliation, which plays down the strength of their individual images by means of the power of framing.

Eva Fotiadi
Art historian and curator
Guest researcher, University van Amsterdam

Text written for the work *Untitled* by Hieke Pars on the occasion of the exhibition *Ontferm U*, W139, Amsterdam, 2008.
See also: http://www.ontfermu.nl/hieke_pars.php