

Dries Verhoeven (1976 Oosterhout, Netherland) is a theatre maker/ visual artist.

Dries Verhoeven creates large-scale installations, performances and happenings in museums, on location and in the public spaces of a city. On the boundary between theatre and installation art, he critically evaluates the relationships between the spectators, performers, everyday reality and art. He challenges the visitor to consider their world, and significant social developments, from a radically different perspective. In the past he has worked together with the elderly, the blind, refugees and young children. He presented an alternative version of our world as seen through their eyes. The visitor is often addressed directly and is given the opportunity to steer their own experience. As such they are made complicit in the piece.

In the art experience *U bevindt zich hier* (You are here / 2007) visitors took a room in a large-scale hotel and were given a simultaneous peek into the lives of the other spectators by way of a gigantic mirrored ceiling.

In the baroque funeral mass *De Uitvaart* (The Funeral / 2014) spectators carried common lost elements of our neo-liberal society to the grave.

In recent years his work has shifted more towards visual art. In the human exhibition *Ceci n'est pas...* (2013) exceptional people were displayed in a glass display case in a central place in the city. Passers-by were confronted with social taboos that are normally suppressed or approached through populist rhetoric. In *Homo Desperatus* (2014), his first museum exhibition, 70,000 ants lived in scale models of contemporary disaster zones.

Dries Verhoeven's work could be seen at major European festivals like the Wiener Festwochen and the London LIFT Festival and he has been awarded several prizes including the Mont Blanc Young Directors Award at the Salzburger Festspiele. He has worked for the Schauspielhaus Bochum, Battersea Arts Centre in London and the Münchner Kammerspiele, among others. Dries Verhoeven alternates between living in Amsterdam and Berlin. His organisation "A room with a view" is supported by the Municipality of Utrecht and the Nederlandse Fonds voor de Podiumkunsten (Netherlands Performing Arts Fund). He regularly collaborates with the HAU Hebbeltheater in Berlin.

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