

Interview with Maarten Isaäk de Heer

Maarten Isaäk de Heer - author of the film "[mu:stərman] - a Flood Story", which received the Third Prize of the festival in 2012, was interviewed by Linoleum.

Do you believe something will happen with the earth? (as predicted) And it could be another water floating?

The earth will change constantly. There will be floods, earthquakes, meteorites, hurricanes and ice ages, until it dies out, leaving nothing, or something else... something new. *Panta rhei*. This is a common fact of nature. A common fact of life.

Which place on Earth you would like to choose if smth happen with place of your leaving and the most part of Europe will under the water?

Since I cannot transform into a duck or a fish or a bird, I already fled for the water in my home country The Netherlands and I'm living in Berlin now, where it is still save and dry.

What is for you "Don`t panic".

In [mu:stərman] - a Flood Story, the animals react to the flood in a very pragmatismal and stoical way. Some just pack and leave, others get into a boat, climb on rooftops, some were on vacation during the flood... The reactions of these animals to nature are dull. Bored and boring. During the flood, they just sit out the ride, just as people behave in public transport. They don't really mind their surroundings. They are individuals with personalized iPhones.

But nothing happens when they Googlesearch "miracle" No wonder. The ignorance of magic is typical for modern society as I experience it. Logic and reason have prevailed, leaving a spiritual loss.

Don't panic; don't get hysterical over earthly discomforts. Life is short and life is plenty. Everything and everybody comes and goes. This thought can make you feel unimportant, but it can also be a comfort. Being part of a much bigger something.

Have you ever had panic during the job.

No. I don't have deadlines.

Whom could you point as your favorite animators and directors?

Jan Svankmaier (for his dark storytelling), Alexander Petrov (for his technique)

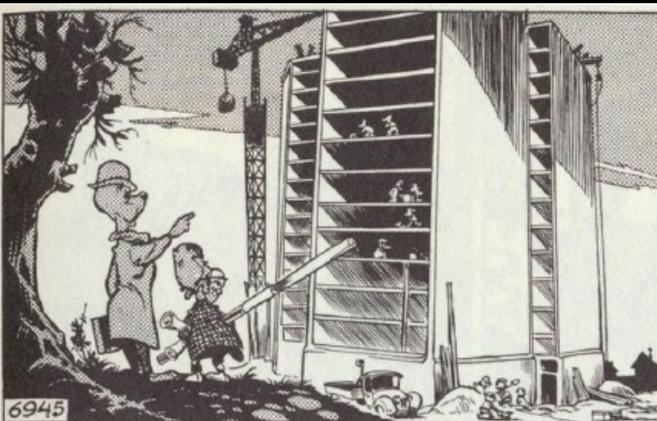
Could you point any names are influenced to you as an artist?

Pieter Brueghel the Elder used a lot of different little stories to show a bigger one.



But also:

Marten Toonder may well go down in history as the most important Dutch author of comics. Undoubtedly, there is no comic artist who has put his mark on the Dutch comics scene like Toonder. His creations have been published in dailies and periodicals all over the world. His most famous series was 'Tom Poes en Heer Bommel' ('Tom Puss and Mr. Bumble'), which ran virtually non-stop for nearly 45 years. Toonder has received a great many awards and honorary distinctions for both his illustrating skills and the quality of his literary output. (From the comiclopedia (www.lambiek.net))



The beauty of Marten Toonder for me, is that he had a very dry and down-to-earth view on magical things. Magic just exists in his stories (and his real life!). There is nothing fancy about it. It is just part of everyday life.

At home, I have a painting by Ivan Generalić. Dancing people in a village. Surrounded by trees. The detachment and frankness in Generalić naiv paintings are a relief.



Besides persons, I was inspired most by our garden. Which offers me a very direct link to the earth and a constant reminder of all the different lifecycles on it. Worms play a good part in that:



Maybe Russian names could be among them?

During the making of [mu:stərman] - a Flood Story, I showed my assistants “There Once Was a Dog” by Eduard Nazarov. It’s a beautiful story with a sad kind of humor, a slow pace and wonderful artwork. I used this film as a guideline for the tempo in [mu:stərman].

If you ever collect students for teaching or master classes what will the most important advice you`ll give to them.

I have had some bad experiences teaching people. It annoys me when they don't understand things right away, or that they can't come up with answers or ideas themselves. I am not patient enough.

There are so many dialogs for now about immigration for example (and over political situations) . What are the possibilities of animation as social instrument. Can animation save the world?

I don't want to save the world. Save it from what? From humanity maybe?

Animation is just an artform to me, as well as any other. Art moves people and people move on the surface of the earth. Art doesn't move the earth. Do people change the earth?

Does the earth has to save itself from art? Do you think animation is able to threaten the cosmos?

Where do animations go, when the earth vanishes?

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Interview taken from: <http://www.linoleumfestival.ru/blog/englishblog/229-interview-with-maarten-isaak-de-heer>