

Resume

NIELS MAARTEN DE GROOT

Visual art, action research and organizing

Contact information

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Nationality: Dutch

Short Profile

Niels de Groot is educated as a political philosopher (MA) and developed himself as an all-round visual artist and organizer. In his work he captures mechanisms of in- and exclusion in images. Niels has designed media campaigns, translated scientific research in visual products, and illustrated educational material for youth. He is currently working for his own NGO, Stichting Doetank, on issues of racial profiling and police accountability in the Netherlands. Niels has cooperated with the European Cultural Foundation, Amnesty International NL, Open Society Justice Initiative, the Amsterdam Art Academy 'Rietveld Academie', and the Municipality of Amsterdam.

Education

2007 - 2008: Master Political and Social Philosophy, University of Amsterdam

2001 - 2006: Bachelor Philosophy (minor in Aesthetics), University of Amsterdam

Relevant professional experience

Co-founder, project manager and organizer at Stichting Doetank (2008 – now)

Doetank, co-founded by Niels de Groot, is a small NGO that combines socio-scientific and action research methods with social and artistic interventions in an urban context. The last two years Doetank has been working together with Amnesty International NL and OSJI (Open Society Justice Initiative) on several projects regarding racial profiling and police accountability.

www.doetank.org

• **Freelance organizer (2004 - now)**

As a freelance organizer Niels de Groot has extensive experience in developing and supervising international youth exchange programs focused on informal politics, participatory democracy and critical citizenship. Niels has also supported activists in the area of housing and social justice and organized several cultural and political events within the Dutch student movement.

Visual artist and curator (2001 - now)

Niels has curated exhibitions and artistic programs for travelling art gallery Schijnheilig and counter-cultural festival Damoclash. His own work as a visual artist is multi-disciplinary: it ranges from painting and illustrating, to film and the production of artistic installations. His work has been exhibited at recognized festivals and art spaces such as Oerol (www.oerol.nl), Robodock (robodock.nl) and the EYE filmmuseum (eye.nl).

www.nielsdegroot.net, www.damoclash.nl

www.schijnheilig.org

Projects (selection):

As Co-founder and organizer at Doetank:

Controle Alt Delete 2013/2014

(project manager, researcher and filmmaker / editor)

Controle Alt Delete is a cross-media campaign about racial profiling in the Netherlands. The campaign attracted a lot of media attention and was very successful in placing this topic on the public and political agenda. Together with Amnesty International NL and OSJI (Rebekah Delsol), Doetank has developed different strategies to provide impacted communities with tools to share their personal stories and raise their voice.

Project website: <http://www.controlealtdelete.nl/>

Project documentary: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LvHXrfYiRGk>

Streetwork 2014

(project manager, researcher and graphic designer)

Streetwork is a project in which young people and local policemen and - women are brought together to get to know each other and to be trained in the application of law and the everyday use of rights and duties on the streets.

• Streetright is a spin-off of Controle Alt Delete and mainly focusses on de-escalation of police violence by informing young people about their rights and duties in relation to the police.

www.straatrecht.nl

Discrimination map of the east of Amsterdam 2012
(researcher, organizer and illustrator)

Discrimination map of the east of Amsterdam was a project in which Doetank developed an interactive and visual method to interview local inhabitants of the 'Indische Buurt', a neighbourhood in the east of Amsterdam, about stereotypes and prejudices. The results of the 80 interviews were 1) used to develop an accessible and visual map about the existing stereotypes within the neighbourhood and 2) as input for a local theater play, made by kids from the neighbourhood, on discrimination.

<http://www.doetank.org/discriminatiekaart-van-amsterdam/>

Elderly people's card game of the Indische Buurt 2012
(researcher, organizer, illustrator and graphic designer)

Elderly people's card game of the Indische Buurt was a project in which Doetank used participative research to analyze the process of segregation of different communities of elderly people in the east of Amsterdam. The research results were used to develop a card game featuring the portraits, activities and cultural customs of different ethnic groups of elderly people. This card game was spread throughout the neighborhood as a means to get to know each other's community.

As freelance organizer:

Transformers! 2013
(project management and organizer)

Transformers! was a two week long international internship for local youth activists from Amsterdam, Paris, Berlin, Rabat, Istanbul and Cairo. The exchange took place in Berlin. Aim of the program was to stimulate youth leadership and innovative political participation amongst marginalized youth with an Islamic background. Participants worked on skills to become a community leader in their own neighbourhood, by experimenting with community organizing, creative activism and civic journalism. Funded by Dutch development organization Hivos and European program Youth in Action.

• The Urban Con-action 2010
(project manager and organizer)

The Urban Con-action was an exchange program between a group of Moroccan-Dutch at-risk boys from Kanaleneiland (Utrecht, the Netherlands) and Grigny (Paris, Ile de France). The exchange took place in Paris. The aim of the program was to share experiences of social exclusion and life in deprived, urban neighbourhoods. The project consisted of activities such as debates, focus group discussions and team building exercises, in which the participants could share experiences and get a glimpse of each others world.

The Road to Empowerment 2009
(project manager and organizer)

The Road to Empowerment was a three week long international internship for students from the Netherlands and Ethiopia in the field of student participation and democratisation of education. The internship took place in Ethiopia. Participants were members of high school student councils. Activities included debating, radio making, and trainings in team building, project management, advocacy and campaigning. The national Dutch union for highschool students LAKS, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ethiopian NGO Initiative Africa were the main partners in the project.

Printed publications

Doetank. 2013. *Leren van de stad, duurzaamheidscoalities buiten Amsterdam*. Amsterdam: Kennisnetwerk Amsterdam / De Doetank. Commissioned by Kennisnetwerk Amsterdam.

Doetank. 2012. *Gevoel voor de regels van het spel*. Amsterdam: woningcoöperatie Stadgenoot / De Doetank. Commissioned by Housing cooperation Stadgenoot.

Doetank. 2009. *Meet the videomaker*. Amsterdam: European Cultural Foundation / De Doetank. Commissioned by European Cultural Foundation.

Doetank. 2009. *Oost, West, thuis; Best*. Amsterdam: Gemeente Best / De Doetank. Commissioned by the Municipality of Best.

In the media

AD, 30th of October 2013. Hakkenberg, D. & Schalkwijk, L. *De politie discrimineert, maar is dat wel zo erg?* Amsterdam: Algemeen Dagblad. Newspaper. (About Controle Alt Delete)

De Volkskrant, 29th of October 2013. Groen, J. *Amnesty: Nederlandse politie discrimineert tijdens controles.* Amsterdam: De Volkskrant. Newspaper. (About Controle Alt Delete)

NRC Next, 29th of October 2013. Abouthaleb, Y. *Dit gaat om mijn kleurtje.* Amsterdam: NRC Next. Newspaper. (About Controle Alt Delete)

RTL Late Night, 29th of October 2013. Amsterdam: RTL Late Night met Humberto Tan. Popular Dutch talkshow. (About Controle Alt Delete)

<http://bit.ly/1sL1oXO>

NRC.nl, 29th of October 2013. *Donkere jongens vaker aangehouden. 'Doetank' klaagt politie aan.* Amsterdam: NRC.nl. News site. (About Controle Alt Delete)

<http://bit.ly/R3B22C>

RTL 4, 18th of May 2011. Doetuinen. Amsterdam: RTL 4, Koffietijd. Talkshow. (About Doetuinen) <http://bit.ly/ZslmcW>

VN.nl, 5th of July 2011. *De Humuslaag van Amsterdam.* Amsterdam: VN.nl. News magazine. (About Gallery Schijnheilig) <http://bit.ly/1tt4Fw3>

NRC.nl, 19th of February 2010. *Lijst Blanco: voor wie het beter weet.* Amsterdam: NRC.nl. Newspaper. (About Lijst Blanco) <http://bit.ly/1vuzEYu>

Volkskrant and Volkskrant.nl, 2nd of March 2010. *Ware proteststemmer stemt op lijst Blanco.* Amsterdam: Volkskrant.nl. Newspaper and News site. (About Lijst Blanco) <http://bit.ly/1yCD38Q>

Professional skills and languages

Graphic design (Adobe Photoshop and - Illustrator)

Film editing (Final Cut pro 7)

Silkscreening

Sound engineering

Dutch: (Native speaker) Speaking and writing perfect.

English: Speaking and writing good.

French: Speaking and writing reasonable.

German: Speaking and writing reasonable.