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**VIAFARINI**  
Associazione per la promozione  
della ricerca artistica

Milano, 13 giugno 2005

Gentile Dr. Bianco,

come suggeritoci dalla Signora Lotti, Le inoltriamo il progetto "Thin Line: The exhibition, the movie", progetto espositivo che prevede la collaborazione tra gli spazi artistici Viafarini di Milano e IJskelders VUB & NADINE di Bruxelles.

Viafarini, organizzazione non-profit per la promozione della ricerca artistica, che dal 1991 a Milano opera con uno spazio espositivo e una serie di servizi di documentazione e informazione rivolti a giovani artisti (dal 1995 al 2005 in convenzione con il Comune di Milano, Settore Giovani). Per ulteriori informazioni sulle attività di Viafarini, La invitiamo a visitare il sito [www.viafarini.org](http://www.viafarini.org)

Da febbraio a giugno c.a. è stata organizzata "Thin Line", rassegna espositiva che ha presentato 14 giovani artisti italiani. La rassegna non si ferma in Italia, ma prevede ulteriori tappe in diversi paesi, tra i quali il Belgio, la Corea ecc. In queste nuove edizioni, gli artisti italiani saranno messi a confronto e dialogheranno con altrettanti artisti dei paesi ospitanti, selezionati da un curatore locale che affiancherà il curatore italiano, Milovan Farronato.

Il progetto in Belgio è giunto a uno stadio di concreta realizzazione, in quanto sono già state stabilite le sedi ospitanti e le date previste, come potrà leggere nel documento allegato.

Saremmo lieti se l'Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Bruxelles volesse collaborare a questa iniziativa, così affermando l'impegno nel promuovere gli artisti italiani in Belgio, nonché favorire lo scambio culturale tra i due Paesi.

Cordiali saluti,

Patrizia Brusarosco  
Direttore

July 16, 2005

Dear Jan van Woensel,

I herewith invite you to lecture in Milan, on a date at your convenience in mid September. The topic we would like you to talk about is the relationship between the exhibition and the film of the project *Thin Line*, a series of exhibitions of young artists held in the Viafarini space in Milan. On this occasion you will also co-select artists for the Belgian *Thin Line*.

Viafarini will provide for accommodation and catering during your stay.

Viafarini in Milan is a non-profit space, ideal for site-specific installations. It recently put up exhibitions with Mona Hatoum, Asta Gröting, Jimmie Durham, Vito Acconci, Rosemarie Trockel and Tobias Rehberger, Nic Hess, Maja Bajevic, Federico Herrero, Katharina Grosse, Mathilde ter Heijne whereby each project was produced here in Italy.

Viafarini is well-known in Italy for its activities especially for promoting the emerging young Italian artists. To have more info please visit [www.viafarini.org](http://www.viafarini.org).

Best regards,

Patrizia Brusarosco

# THIN LINE: The exhibition, the movie!!

## The Belgian contribution to the international project Thin Line.

Curator: Jan Van Woensel (B) (1)  
Artists: Frances Goodman (S-Africa), Ives Maes (B), L.A. Raeven (NL),  
Merlin Spie (B), Kris Vleeschouwer (B), Cindy Wright (B)

Curator: Milovan Farronato (I)  
Artists: Sergio Breviario, Nemanja Cvijanovic, Giovanni De  
Lazzari,,Nicola Gobetto, Gino Lucente, Marinella Senatore

Date: Oct 15th – Oct 30th, 2005  
Locations: IJskelders VUB & NADINE vzw, Brussels, Belgium.  
Partners: NICC Antwerp, VUB, NADINE vzw, RITS dept. Film & Television,  
Viafarini

The project titled "THIN LINE: The exhibition, the movie!!", designed to be the second stage of the international travelling exhibition THIN LINE, strives to a challenging contribution. By being invited to be the curator of a large-scale project with an international breath such as THIN LINE, Jan Van Woensel gave shape to an exhibition/movie, which aims to investigate the relation between both *sets*. (2)

1.

The exhibition will bring together the works of several emerging artists in an alternative environment, the IJskelders (Ice-Cellars) of the VUB in Brussels. The art pieces are selected on the basis of the proposed concept formulated by Italian curator Milovan Farronato, who states that art forms a representation of danger, threat; situations that could occur in everyone's life from being stuck between the doors of the bus or being surprised by a sudden cloud burst, to driving through a nearly red traffic light.

Some of the pieces selected by Jan Van Woensel try to reach a direct or even extreme interpretation of danger and threat, as we know it nowadays in the form of terrorism, genocide and suicide-bombers. (3) *Kris Vleeschouwer* for instance builds life-size kinetic installations in which cell phone connections activate machinery that are in control of certain objects positioned in the exhibition space. For instance: a slamming door, a glass falling, a ball being catapulted against a window etc...

Obviously, these actions don't share the same impact of a bomb being detonated, but Vleeschouwer uses the same technology systems as today's terrorism – cell phones, sensors and closed circuits... (4)

The paintings by *Cindy Wright* establish a more mental awareness of danger. The portraits she paints of fellow artists or friends are made with an extensive feeling for photographic influences and characteristics. Simultaneously with these series of portraits, she paints images of rotten meat, with a same brush stroke and photographic attention. All these images assemble reality successfully. As a spectator of these works we understand that what Wright paints, a portrait of a

beloved one or rotten minced-meat, is a close up on the ageing process of flesh in general. The awareness of being captured in a human body, which decomposes after dead, affects the -at first sight- traditional and well painted, nice-looking images. (5)

*Ives Maes* builds prototypes for alternative refugee camps that decompose after a certain amount of years. He formulates an ecological solution for problems such as land mines that even after times of war kill or damage people, often children playing in the field. His objects therefore are a reference to forms of danger and post-war issues as well to human protection.

The Dutch artists' duo and twin sisters *L.A. Raeven* have organised their lives in such a way that they seem to live on the verge of physical and mental health and extreme illness. Comparable to Orlan, the queen of plastic surgery, L.A. Raeven embody their art. They follow a strict (self-invented) diet and act like copies of each other. Hence, they undertake projects, in which they involve young females such as models or ballerinas that unavoidably focus on a comparable urge to maintain striving for physical beauty. For the exhibition "THIN LINE: The exhibition, the movie!!" they will produce a new video in situ.

*Frances Goodman's* audio-piece Voice of Reason (2001) contain the artist's monologues as she observes people's behaviours in public spaces: eating in restaurants, sharing cutlery, driving in traffic. The extreme sense of self-consciousness the artist incites through her meticulous observations of these everyday, mundane events questions the fine line between routine and obsession; interactions in public spaces are recorded as moments of risk where we are exposed to the 'dirt' of strangers. Artist and audience alike operate as both phobic subject and studied object. On the surface, it is the bodily threat of infection by strangers, of contamination by others' germs that is feeding the artist's neurotic contemplations. But this 'surface' holds a far darker subtext: threatened body in threatening space reveals the way prejudice, resentment and fear is inscribed on both body and psyche.

2.

Parallel to the exhibition, the recordings of a short movie will be organised. The movie will be undertaken at the same location of the exhibition and its scenario and script will be designed by the RITS dept. film & television. The movie will not be a documentary about the exhibition traditionally interviewing the artists and presenting overall views of the show, but will be an independent story in the context of the exhibition THIN LINE. Although the movie shall as well zoom in on the art pieces and the setting up of the show, the movie shall follow its own storyline involving actors and extras, other than the present artists and curators. The movie should result in a drama, or a thriller even (a fiction), to guarantee its necessity related to the topic of the exhibition in which danger and threat are key words. (6)

The idea for the combination of the THIN LINE exhibition and the THIN LINE movie arose partially with the list of restrictions being formulated by the VUB who is in charge of the location, the IJskelders. Only about 15 to 20 people are allowed to descend the basements, which problemized the traditional opening, reception and accessibility of the exhibition in general. Such a restriction, apart from others, rather isolates the exhibition from the people and from any other existing circuit of exhibitions in Brussels. To avoid such a non-visibility, Jan Van Woensel decided to use this as a tool rather than a scrape. An exhibition that will not physically be seen and experienced by a wide audience (only by a few invited people and press) should find a way to reach even further than circulating among the incrowd of the local art scene. The DVD of "THIN LINE: The exhibition, the movie!!" obviously provides this capability. (7) However, another form of visibility has been designed as well.

In the IJskelders, 4 live-streaming surveillance cameras will capture both actions (the exhibition and the movie) during the 2 weeks of the show. These cameras connect to a central computer system that sends the images to a second computer installed at the art space NADINE vzw in the city centre of Brussels. (8) In this new space for art, monitors will allow the spectators to view the exhibition and the creation of the movie. An info desk can be installed to initiate the project and the specificity of the Belgian contribution to THIN LINE. Hence, NADINE vzw will automatically become the centre of the exhibition of THIN LINE in Belgium and hereby it becomes part of the scenery.

In order to maintain a coherence between the Belgian concept and the global THIN LINE it is important that at the proceeding locations: Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and New York, only the DVD of "THIN LINE: The exhibition, the movie!!" will be projected as the result of this specific project. Once the art pieces are physically shown in an exhibition context, the complete fiction and concept of "THIN LINE: The exhibition, the movie!!" will asunder and undermine the production.

This way, a certain reconstruction of the semi-virtual character of the exhibition in the IJskelders in Brussels will be maintained. Not a selection of art pieces will be seen nor experienced, but a movie filmed at the same location of the exhibition of THIN LINE in Belgium. Similar as in Belgium, the spectators of the exhibitions in the following stages in Asia and the USA cannot directly get in touch with the exhibition. This distancing is of prior importance.

The complete project "THIN LINE: The exhibition, the movie!!" will be reported by the NICC of Antwerp (New International Cultural Centre), an artist-run organisation with outstanding reputation and international profile. (9) The NICC will hire an artist/researcher to interview and conference everyone involved to THIN LINE in Belgium. His/Her research will result in a publication, which can be a booklet, a DVD, an audio CD, a website... Hence, the NICC will promote the exhibition "THIN LINE: The exhibition, the movie!!" through their international network, on their website and in their publication NICCbits. This again guarantees the visibility of the project THIN LINE in general, in Belgium.

**Text by Douglas Fisher in collaboration with Jan Van Woensel. Nothing of this content may be published without the permission of the authors. This is a non-edited text, compiled as an introduction draft to the project "THIN LINE: The exhibition, the movie!!" posted to the curator and artists of THIN LINE.**

- (1) Jan Van Woensel designed the concept for the project "THIN LINE: The exhibition, the movie!!" in Belgium. Milovan Farronato is the initiator, designer and curator of the series of exhibitions that will be undertaken under the title THIN LINE with following stages in S-Korea, Japan, China and USA.
- (2) The camera and the exhibition. From "Relational Aesthetics" (Nicolas Bourriaud)
- (3) Without wanting to evoke any explicit political connotation. Every piece of art refers initially to the given topic and secondly can be connected to global themes such as terrorism.
- (4) Kris Vleeschouwer is selected for the prestigious "Young Belgian Painters Award" Belgium. June 2005 at the Centre for Fine Arts in Brussels.
- (5) Cindy Wright is selected for the prestigious "Young Belgian Painters Award" Belgium. June 2005 at the Centre for Fine Arts in Brussels.
- (6) This intervention of the exhibition set with the film set is part of Jan Van Woensel's current curatorial research. Being fascinated by the fiction of a movie and the fiction of an exhibition, he establishes a synergy between both. Hence, designing exhibitions that are able to travel and can be in total reduced to a medium such as video, transformed by a genre such as a drama or a thriller, brings an intense form of postproduction to the front. This is as well one of Van Woensel's approaches to let an exhibition circulate as a product, in this case: a DVD, independently and internationally.
- (7) The DVD of "THIN LINE: The exhibition, the movie!!" will already be shown as a part of the exhibition "THE IMPLODING CINEMA" (curator: Jan Van Woensel) in 2006, which will investigate the thin line between reality and fiction in popular movies and television programs. "THE IMPLODING CINEMA" contains a series of videos by artists and a film set

- of a living room in which the artists will create a new soap opera. This soap opera will be broadcasted on local television and internet. Later on, it will be distributed on DVD.
- (8) The negotiations with NADINE vzw are currently in progress. It is not so much a problem of being attracted by the concept but more a matter of time and scheduling the space and the people.
- (9) [www.nicc.be](http://www.nicc.be) Special thanks to Anne Decock, Peter Lemmens and the board of the NICC.

## THIN LINE: The exhibition, the movie!!

To preview the IJskelders visit the website of [www.janvanwoensel.net](http://www.janvanwoensel.net)

Ontwerp tentoonstelling / filmset: THIN LINE  
Curator: Jan Van Woensel

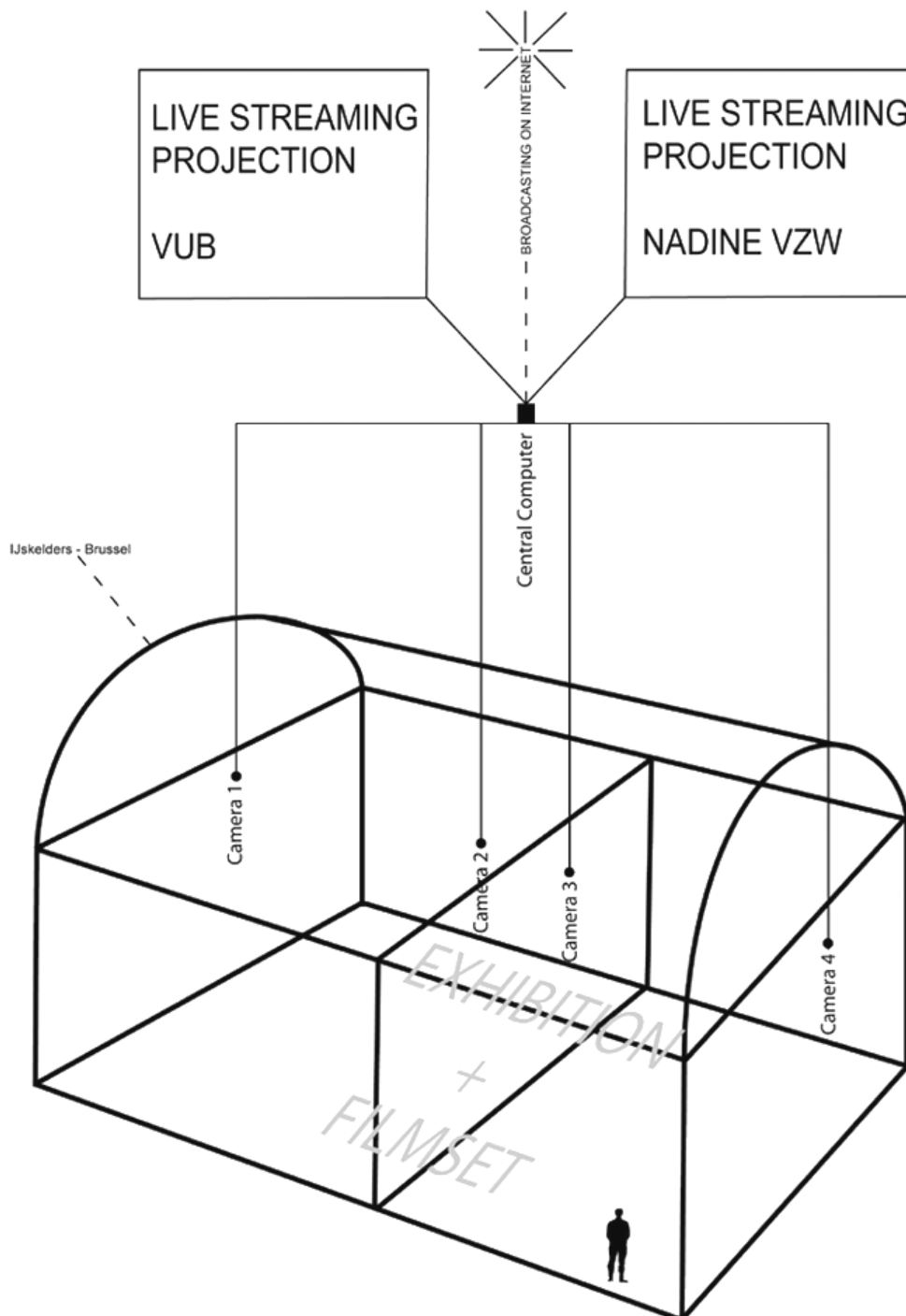


Fig.1 Exhibition design

JAN VAN WOENSEL IS AN INDEPENDENT CURATOR BASED IN ANTWERP, BELGIUM.

IN 2004 HE CURATED AND DESIGNED THE SERIES OF EXHIBITIONS TITLED "SCENERY" WHICH HAD ITS PRIMAL STAGE IN ANTWERP WITH THE PROJECT SCENERY 1 (PROPOSING A SPACE BETWEEN). THE SECOND PROJECT IS SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY IN AMSTERDAM TITLED SCENERY 2 (A RECONSTRUCTION) AND THE PUBLICATION SCENERY 3 (THE SPACE BETWEEN THE RECONSTRUCTION), DISCUSSIONS IN COLLABORATION WITH THE APPEL FOUNDATION AMSTERDAM, BAK UTRECHT AND GUESTS.

HENCE, JAN VAN WOENSEL INVESTIGATES THE THIN LINE BETWEEN FICTION AND REALITY IN POPULAR FILM, TELEVISION PROGRAMS AND VIDEO ART. HIS PROJECT THE IMPLODING CINEMA WILL RESULT IN THE CREATION OF A NEW SOAP OPERA WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY A SELECTION OF ARTISTS.

CURRENTLY VAN WOENSEL IS WRITING TEXTS ABOUT SEVERAL ARTISTS SUCH AS KUMI OGURO (CONFUSION IS VIOLENCE IS NOISE: FILM STILLS FROM VIRTUAL MOVIES), SOFIE MULLER, WESLEY MEURIS, KEREN CYTTER AND OTHERS. THE PUBLICATION INFILTRATIONS ABOUT THE WORK OF KRIS VLEESCHOUWER IS IN PROGRESS AND WILL BE RELEASED IN BRUSSELS, SHANGHAI AND BERN IN 2006.

FOR ALL INFORMATION RELATED TO THE PROJECT THIN LINE:THE EXHIBITION, THE MOVIE!! PLEASE CONTACT JAN VAN WOENSEL.

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Info update //

## THIN LINE: THE EXHIBITION, THE MOVIE!!

Curated by Jan Van Woensel  
In collaboration with Milovan Farronato

Jesús Azogue (ES), Stephan Balleux (BE), Sergio Breviario (IT), Nemanja Cvijanovic (HR), Giovanni De Lazzari (IT), Nicola Gobetto (IT), Gino Lucente (IT), Ives Maes (BE), L.A. Raeven (NL), Marinella Senatore (IT), Thomas Vaile (USA), Kris Vleeschouwer (BE)

Opening Oct 19<sup>th</sup> at 6pm, Nadine, Herderstraat 30, 1050 Brussels  
Exhibition from Oct 20<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>, wed – sat from 2 to 6pm

Supported by  
NICC, VUB, Kingkong ITV, Nadine, Ellen de Bruijne Projects, Mondriaan Stichting

Thin Line: The exhibition, the movie!! is the second project within the framework of Thin Line, a series of traveling group exhibitions with venues in Viafarini, Milan and then in Brussels, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai/Beijing, New York and London.

Thin Line: The exhibition, the movie!! strives to reformulate the format of the exhibition by evoking a tension between the creating process of the new short movie "Look a Likes" directed by Kris Gevers and the exhibition Thin Line. The art pieces are displayed based on a cinematographic approach towards the exhibition and the spectators' experience, elaborating on the comparison between the act of curating and directing movies. Hereby, the working methods of the curator-*producer* and the director-*producer* intervene and challenge each other. While the director creates a (science-) fiction story wherein he recomposes the art pieces, the curator deals with several matters inherent to the development of exhibitions such as postproduction, re-creation, translation and the trailer effect.

The exhibition comprises site specific works of twelve emerging artists based on the overall concept of the show and the movie, and in relation with the remarkable location of this event; two monumental Ice-cellars located in the periphery of Brussels.

The movie will exist as an independent project after the exhibition and will be presented to a wide audience during Film Premiere Screenings in Europe from January 2006 onwards.

Thin Line: The exhibition, the movie!! benefits the support of several organizations.

-*Nadine* establishes a live streaming internet connection between the location of the exhibition (the Ice cellars) and their platform for new media in the city centre of Brussels. The official opening takes place at Nadine art centre.

-*NICC* (New International Cultural Centre) organizes a research project based on the working relationship between the curator(s), the artists and the organizations within the framework of this project. This investigation will result in a publication.

-*VUB* manages the Ice cellars and shows a great interest and progressive focus in renewing exhibition projects. VUB supports the exhibition and the film logistic.

-*Kingkong ITV* broadcasts a commercial video, a making of and a documentary film about the project, including both the exhibition and the film "Look a Likes".

-*Ellen de Bruijne Projects* will devote an exhibition to Thin Line: The exhibition, the movie!! in combination with the premiere presentation of the new video by L.A. Raeven created for this project.