



The Gift, 2013, video loop, 6,45 x 15,5 m LED screen

In 2013 Marjan Laaper received a grant to work in Xiamen for 9 weeks. During her stay she was fascinated by the urban surrounding in Xiamen where big LED screens where situated in the city centre but also by the natural beauty of the mountains the city was built around. Just like old poets and painters she wanted to pay a tribute to nature and to the mystery of life itself.

There, she made the public artwork 'The Gift' which shows two hands that are filmed from above. The hands are close together as if they were asking for something. After a while a small bird lands on the hands and resides for a short while. After some time the bird flies away, leaving the hands waiting for the next gift.

Marjan Laaper



Nationality: Dutch

Lives and works in: Rotterdam

Department: Visual Art, Sculpture

Website: www.marjanlaaper.com

E-mail: marjanlaaper@hetnet.nl

Key info: Born 1971 in Rotterdam, studied at WDKA Fine Arts Department 1989-1994 and at the Maryland College of Art, Baltimore, USA, in 1993 and at Rijksakademie, Amsterdam, NL, 1995-1997. Skowhegan Artists in residence, Maine, USA; 2001 Sapporo Artist in residence Program, Japan; 2013 CEAC, Chinese European Art Center, Xiamen, China; 2014 Artist in residence in Djúpivogur, Iceland

Statement: Specialized in large-scale video projections, installations and Public Art Commissions. Simple everyday phenomena are being presented within a poetic, sometimes even philosophical framework. General human experiences, human thinking, nature, and the experience of every day life are starting points in her work. Often there is a tension between contradictory subjects and symbols like beauty and danger, the immaterial and the transitory or trust and alarm. The work does not give clear answers but shows recognisable elements that generate questions.