

Jan Verbruggen Studio and w-o-l-k-e present

THESAUROS

The Treasury

An in-situ project for a location yet to be specified

The project “Thesauros” (the treasury) was shown in a first version in the gallery Fortlaan (Ghent) and then in Second room (Antwerp) and Wolke (Brussels). The common thread in the project is an interactive presentation of an imaginary cartography. It consists of an archive of paintings and preliminary studies for paintings.

The paintings are the result of daydreaming, utopia and reality and the sometimes psychedelic twilight zones in between. The often recurring swimming pool takes the place of a safe harbor or a defined territory. A place that I imagine will always be there and to which I can return. That is necessary, because the vast majority of my painting trips are blind spots in unknown territory. I am looking for landmarks.

The paintings are presented within a quirky visual display that was designed as an extension of my personal musings. The spectators become the director of their own imaginary and thus highly personal cartography, in which they have to create a foothold themselves by making choices along the way. Just like the cartographer, the viewer is confronted with an initially insurmountable amount of information in which very quick choices have to be made in the process about what the map is worth to display and what is not.

Below I will give you a picture of the in-situ project that I have in mind, based on a number of design drawings.



THESAUROS

The Ancient Greek word “thesauros” (θησαυρός) means “treasure”, “treasury”, “storehouse” or “coffin”. It is derived from the Ancient Greek term “tithenai” which means “to put” or “to place”.







THESAUROS

The experience of the visitor

When entering the room two small blue crates are present. In one, there are gloves that the spectator uses to take paintings from the crates.

In the other there is a stack of sheets of A4 paper where recto-verso a title list is printed with the available paintings. Those are free to use and guide the visitor in choosing work. The title list may be taken home afterwards.

Throughout the exhibition space the spectators find more blue crates.

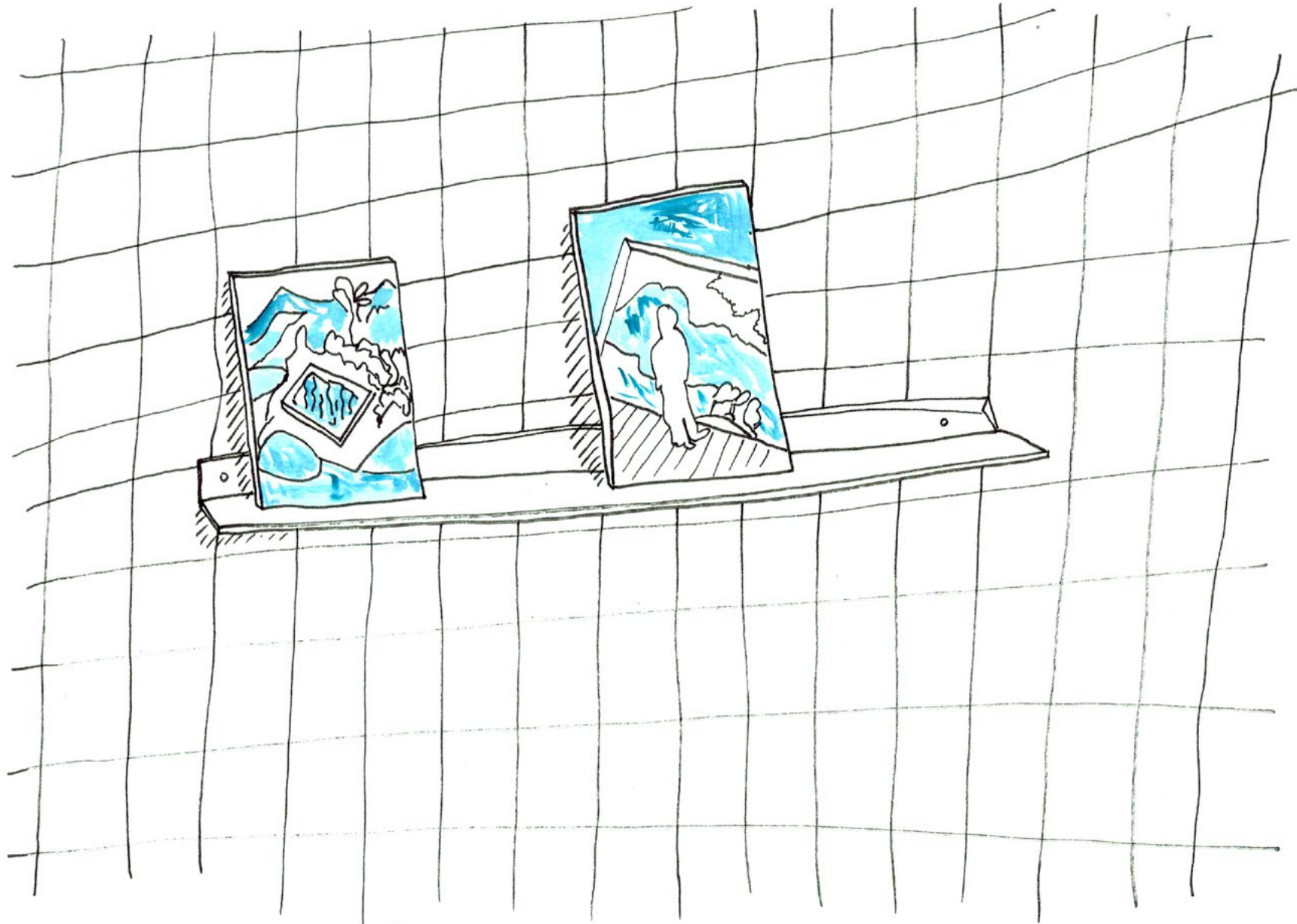
There are paintings in the blue crates. The paintings have an A and B side. They are painted on both sides. They are in a protective plastic cover with a label on both sides. On it you will find a title, technique, dimensions and year. The public has the possibility to collect paintings and take out from their cover, view them and move them freely through the exhibition space.

There are mobile undercarriages in the room. These can be used by visitors to transport the blue crates.

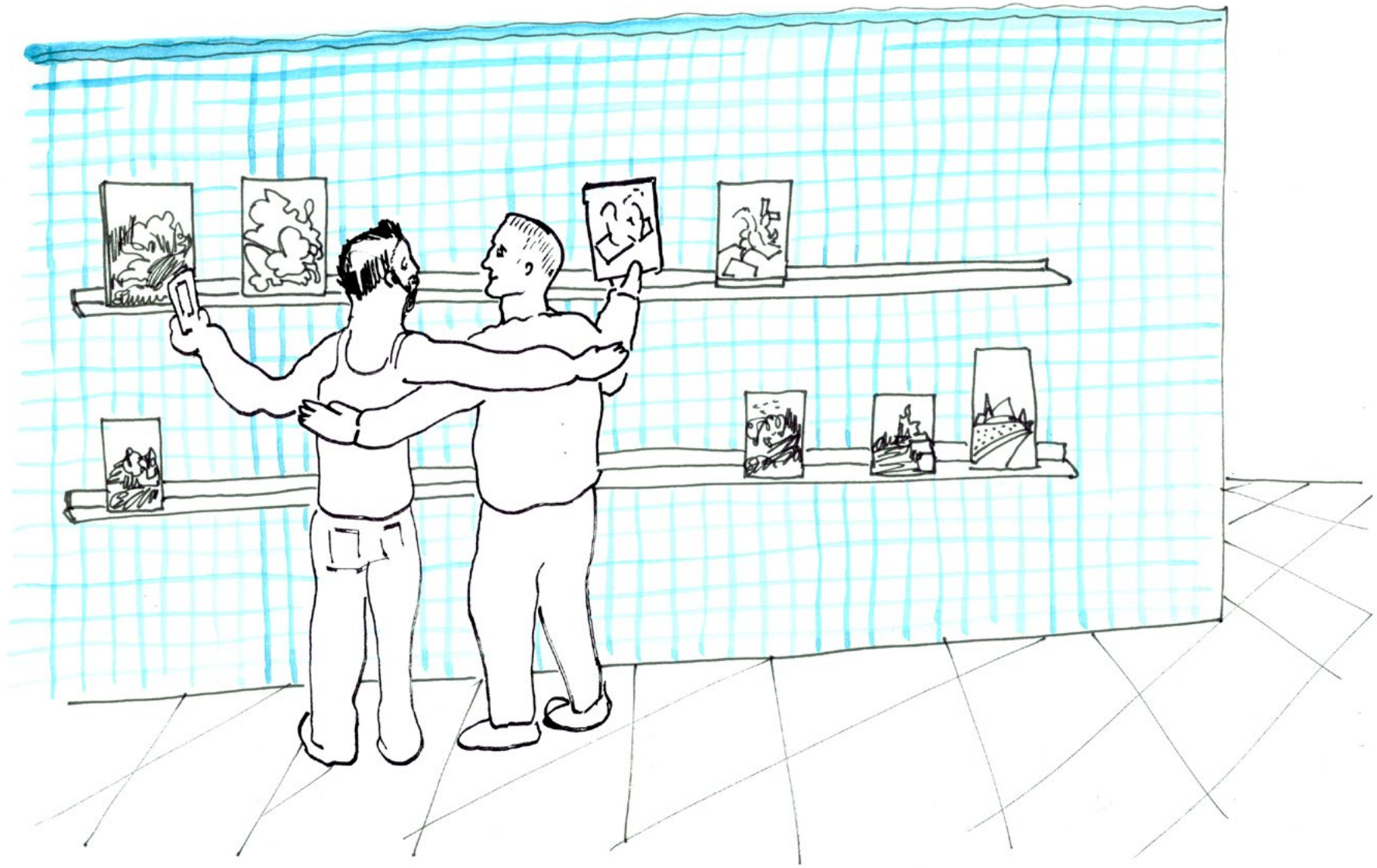
On the walls of the exhibition space, aluminum profiles have been installed at fixed distances and heights. These act as a display for the paintings. These are used by visitors to present selected paintings.

Accompanied by the title list and the labeled covers, the public is challenged to select paintings from the blue crates and then show them on the aluminum display.









Thesauros is a painterly installation that originated in 2012 in my studio. It stems from the search for overview and orientation amidst the multitude of images that I face every day. Since then, this constantly changing and growing series of works forms a personal staff card that I always return to.

Thesauros now consists of more than 150 pieces of wood that are painted on both sides with watercolor, acrylic paint, alkyd lacquer and oil paint. The works are cataloged, labeled and stored in blue crates. The paintings are presented on an aluminum slat display. The installation is interactive. In the sense that the spectator is challenged by the installation to make a personal selection and show work. The presence of other people in space makes the whole an exciting and exciting experience.

On the following pages I give an overview of the experiments and scenography that already took place in the past as part of the Thesauros project.



w-o-l-k-e, Vaartstraat 45, Juni 2013



I Told You So The World Is Flat, Galerie Fortlaan 17, November 2013



w-o-l-k-e, Sonart studio, December 2015



SECONDRoom, April 2017



w-o-l-k-e, FESTIWOL, Juni 2017



w-o-l-k-e, studio Jan Verbruggen, Februari 2018

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