



deux
ensembles fermiers /
two farming
ensembles

Thank you Toos Schalks - Haalebos for the sewing.

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Photo overleaf:

'Anne and Cleo in the stable', winter 1993, Ettingshausen (D).

(Photo: Arnold Schalks)

Edition:

"DEUX ENSEMBLES FERMIERS/
TWO FARMING ENSEMBLES"
(an installation in two spaces)

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RONSARD À PARIS

Programme for the musical opening of the exhibition '*deux ensembles fermiers/two farming ensembles*' on Saturday 5. November 1994, 20 h. in gallery Jorge Alyskewycz, 14 rue des Taillandiers, Paris - Bastille. Four poems of Pierre de Ronsard set to music by four composers.

poem: Sonnet II: '*Nature ornant Cassandre, ...*'
from: 'LE PREMIER LIVRE DES ODES', 1550.
composer: Clément Janequin/France.
1473 - 1560.
Set to music in 1552.

poem: Sonnet XII: '*J'espère et crains, ...*'
from: 'LE PREMIER LIVRE DES AMOURS'/Amours de Cassandre, 1552.
composer: Pierre Certon/France.
†1572.
Set to music in 1552.

poem: Sonnet III: '*Amour, qui as ton règne...*'
from: 'SONNETS POUR HÉLÈNE II', 1578.
composer: Hendrik Andriessen/the Netherlands.
1892 - 1981.
Set to music in 1917.

poem: À sa maîtresse, ODE XVII: '*Mignonne, allons voir si la rose...*'
from: 'LE PREMIER LIVRE DES ODES', 1550.
composer: Hans Riphagen/the Netherlands.
1961 - .
Set to music in 1994, 27/28 September .

THE VOICES

soprano: Renate Germer.

alto: Rannveig Sif Sigurdardóttir.

tenor: Arnold Schalks.

bass: Hans Riphagen.

two farming
ensembles

an installation in two spaces

(from a letter to the Dutch Embassy in Paris, October 10. 1994.)

Dear Mr. Verschuur;

I would like to draw your attention to an event that will soon take place in your residence.

But first let me introduce myself: my name is Arnold Schalks, my profession visual artist. Rotterdam is the city I live and work in. Language is a significant component of my work, literature plays an important role in it. My work consists of 'translating' and 'transforming'. Both actions aim to create associations. Both activities focus on interconnecting levels, notions, languages, materials, objects and, finally, people. [...]

On Saturday, 5. November 1994, my exhibition '*deux ensembles fermiers/ two farming ensembles*' will be opened in gallery Jorge Alyskewycz, rue des Taillandiers 14 in Paris. In the two gallery spaces, I will show two ensembles of which the materials refer to farming.

The first space.

One ensemble consists of an electric fence installation. It shows two separate electric circuits that run in opposite directions. The upper circuit represents 'practice', the lower 'theory'. The two circuits meet at 'point zero' of the work: an oval concrete water trough. The work is titled: '*la voie intérieure/ the inner way*'. It represents the mental process.

The second space.

The other ensemble revolves -in both senses of the word- around cheese. In the next space, a Gouda 40+ cheese is suspended from the ceiling. The cheese was cut three times in a spiral way. Each section of the cheese was inked up and printed on paper: the cheese left a black impression, the holes in the cheese left blanks. The three prints resemble a starry night sky. The prints were enlarged with a factor of 7 and transferred to three pieces of black cheesecloth. Where there were holes in the cheese, holes were consequently cut in the textile. The thus prepared pieces of cloth were attached to the spiral arms of a carousel-like construction that is suspended from the ceiling as well. The reassembled cheese makes up the centre of this ensemble. The work represents our galaxy, and is titled '*la voie lactée/ the milky way*'.

On the floor of the same space, seven small cheeses are arranged in the configuration of the star cluster 'Pleiad'. This star cluster is part of the sign of



5. November 1994, 20. h.

Vocal quartet (from left to right): Renate Germer, Rannveig Sif Sigurdardóttir, Arnold Schalks and Hans Riphagen.

[...] The musicians will sing their songs from within one of the ensembles: in the heartshaped centre of 'the inner way'. [...]



Pierre de Ronsard
1524 - 1585



Cassandre Salviata

Sonnet XII

J'espère et crains, je me tais et supplie
Or' je suis glace et ores un feu chault,
J'admire tout et de rien ne me chault,
Je me délace, et puis je me relie.

Rien ne me plaist sinon ce qui m'ennuye;
Je suis vaillant et le cœur me default,
J'ay l'esperoir bas, j'ay le couraige hault,
Je doute amour, et si je le deffie.

Plus je me picque, et plus je suis rétif,
J'ayme estre libre, et veulx estre captif,
Cent fois je meurs, cent fois je prens naissance.

Un Prométhée en passions je suis:
Et pour aymer perdant toute puissance,
Ne pouvant rien je fay ce que je puis.

the zodiac 'Taurus'. The stars of the 'Pleiad' are located within our galaxy, relatively close to our solar system. The 'cheeses' do not consist of dairy. They were produced with shredded copies of collections of poems. The poems were created by the seven members of the legendary circle of French Renaissance poets 'the Pleiad'. Pierre the Ronsard is the most prolific and most well known representative of this circle. I pressed the paste-soaked shreds of each collection seperately in a cheese mould.

To me, there is a similarity between the production of cheese and the printing of books: Both techniques were conceived to preserve matter that otherwise would easily be lost. Both books and cheese form relevant mental and tangible foodsources in my life.

Through the ages, the love poems of Pierre de Ronsard have been set to music by many composers. On the occasion of the opening of the exhibition, four persons will execute four of these compositions. The musicians will sing their songs, standing in one of the ensembles: in the heartshaped centre of 'the inner way'. The programme includes compositions of two French contemporaries of de Ronsard: "*Nature ornant la dame,...*" by Clément Janequin and "*J'espère et crains,...*" by Pierre Certon. Next are two compositions by Dutch composers: "*Sonnet*" by Hendrik Andriessen and "*Odes I, 17*" by Hans Riphagen. Hans Riphagen wrote his composition especially for this occasion. It is its world première. [...]

Sincerely,
Arnold Schalks,
Rotterdam.

first and second space

ronsard à paris

first space

the inner way

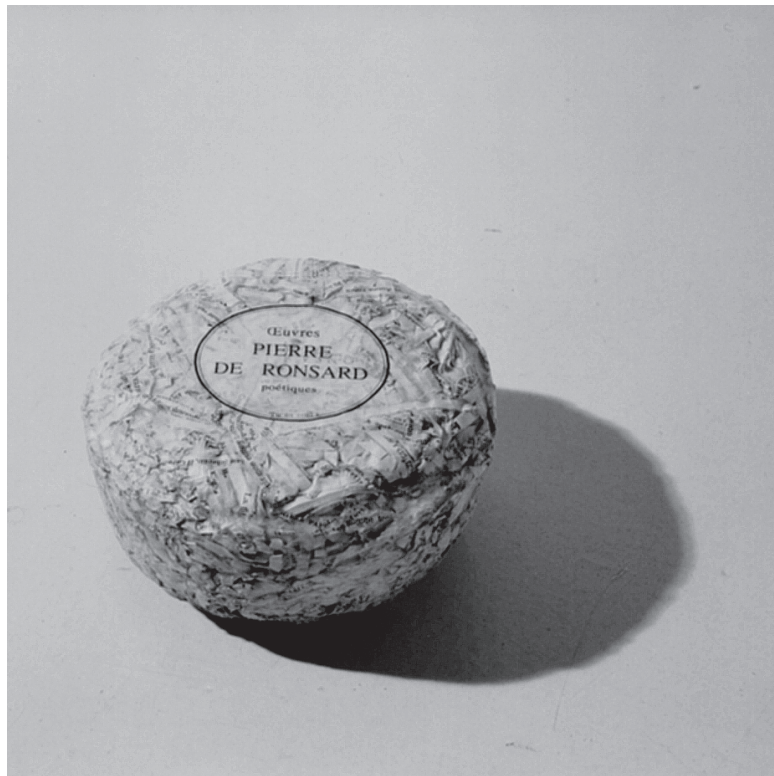
Sonnet III

Amour, qui as ton règne en ce monde si ample,
Voy ta gloire et la mienne errer en ce jardin:
Voy comme son bel œil, mon bel astre divin,
Reluist comme une lampe ardente dans un Temple.

Voy son corps des beautez le portrait et l'exemple,
Qui ressemble une Aurore au plus beau d'un matin:
Voy son esprit, seigneur du Sort et du Destin,
Qui passe la Nature, en qui Dieu se contemple.

Regardez-la marcher toute pensive à soy,
T'emprisonner de fleurs et triompher de toy,
Voy naistre sous ses pieds les herbes bien-heureuses.

Voy sortir un Printemps des rayons de ses yeux:
Et voy comme à l'envy ses flammes amoureuses
Embellissent la terre et serenent les cieux.

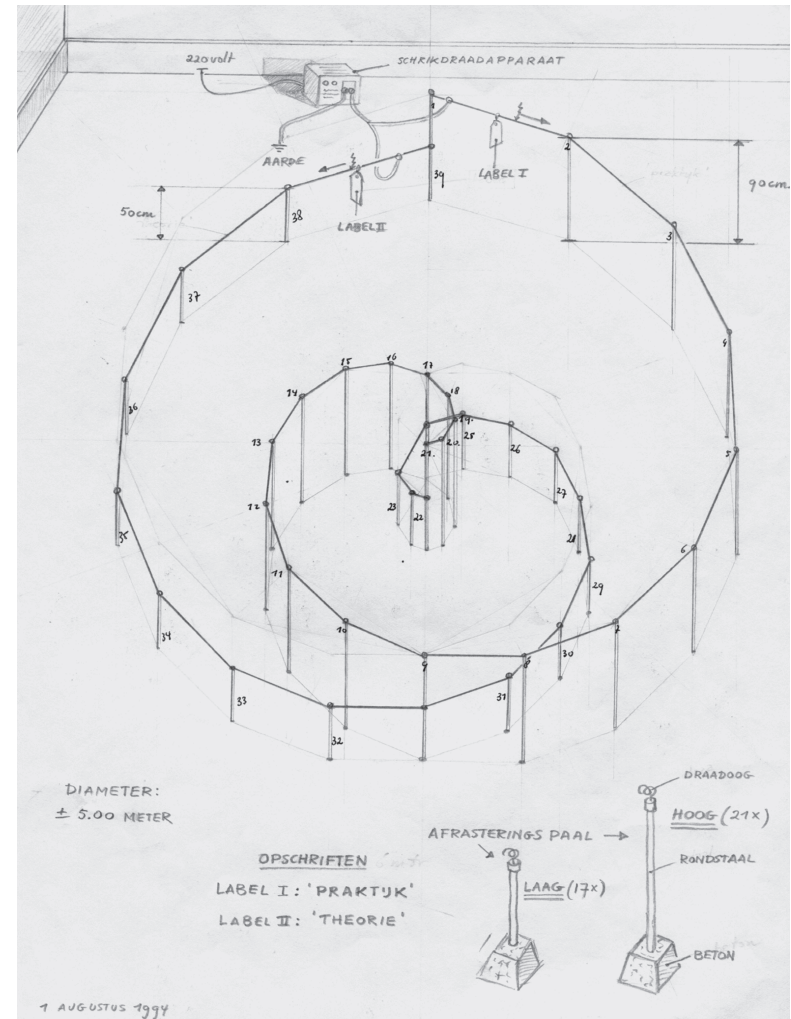


'Cheese' made of a shredded copy of a collection of poems by Pierre de Ronsard.

Mat.: Paper, paste, wax.

Dim.: Ø 15 cm. Height: 8 cm.

[...] To me, there is a similarity between the production of cheese and the printing of books: Both techniques were conceived to preserve matter that otherwise would easily be lost. Both books and cheese form relevant mental and tangible foodsources in my life. [...]



Sketch for 'the inner way'.

[...] One ensemble consists of an electric fence installation. It shows two separate electric circuits that run in opposite directions. The upper circuit represents 'practice', the lower 'theory'. [...]



'the inner way'

Mat.: Electric fence installation, concrete, brass, water.
Dim.: Variable.

[...] The two circuits meet at 'point zero' of the work: an oval concrete water trough. The work is titled: 'la voie intérieure/the inner way'. It represents the mental process. [...]



[...] On the floor of the same space, seven small cheeses are arranged in the configuration of the star cluster 'Pleiad'. [...]

Mat.: Paper, paste, wax.
Dim.: 200 x 90 x 8 cm.

(On the wall: framed poem by Pierre de Ronsard: 'Amour, qui as ton règne...')

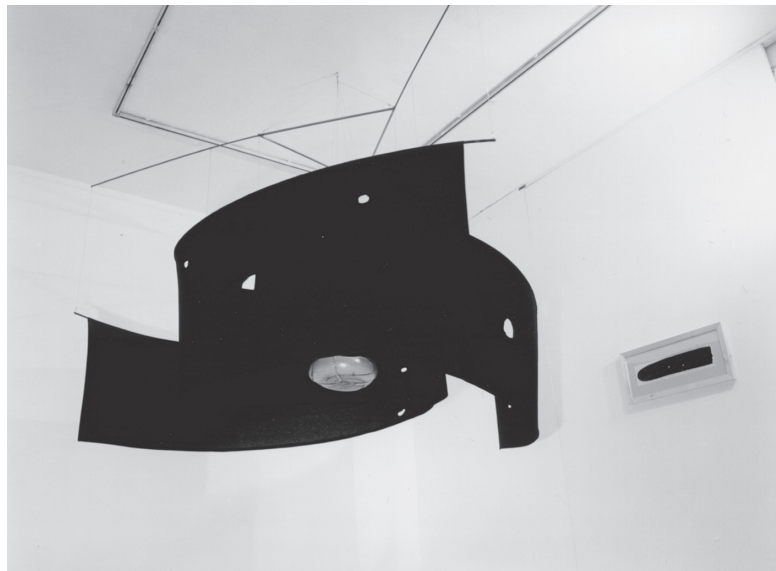


Star cluster 'Pleiad' M45 veiled in reflecting nebulae.

[...] This star cluster is part of the sign of the zodiac 'Taurus'. [...]

second space

the milky way



'the milky way'

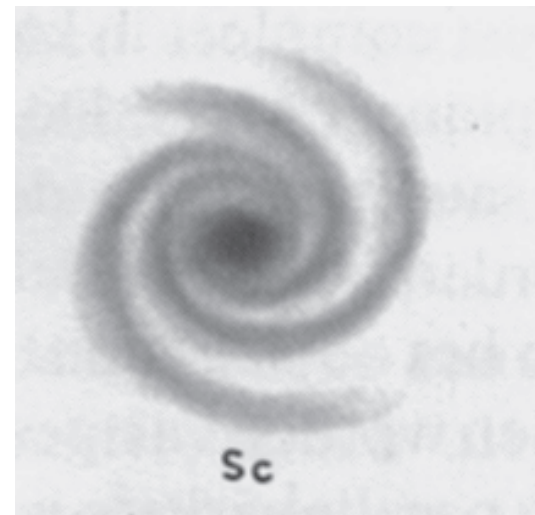
Mat.: Gouda 40+ cheese, cheesecloth, metal, prints.
Dim.: Variable.

[...] The thus prepared pieces of cloth were attached to the spiral arms of a carousel-like construction that is suspended from the ceiling as well. [...]



'the milky way'

[...] The reassembled cheese makes up the centre of this ensemble. [...]



Representation of our galaxy.

[...] The work represents our galaxy, and is titled 'la voie lactée/the milky way'. [...]

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Paris 1994