



## VICTORIAN CIRCUS IV - SAVE THE FUTURE !?

**Schedule WED 09 – SAT 12 APRIL, 2008**

**Vlaams Cultuurhuis de Brakke Grond, Nes 45 Amsterdam**

In Victorian times British gentlemen met in select clubs to discuss the new world. Vlaams Cultuurhuis de Brakke Grond welcomes you into its very own English Club, offering you the most striking developments in the world of the new media. In this fourth edition THE FUTURE will be explored.

Besides a standard programme of interesting symposiums, challenging debates and illustrated lectures with experts as guests there will be ample room for films and futuristic brainstorming in *Victorian Circus IV*. As the cherry on the cake Brakke Grond gives the Dutch preview of the documentary/film *Technocalyps* by Frank Theys.

**You can visit the whole festival by buying a VC PAS of € 8. It can be obtained at the booking office of de Brakke Grond. For a couple of the events it is advisable to make reservations via [www.brakkegrond.nl](http://www.brakkegrond.nl) or T 020 626 68 66. With the VC pas you can get your free tickets at the booking office.**

### SCHEDULE

#### WED 09.04.08

From 5PM: Selection of Socio-Political Digital Work by Angelo Vermeulen (free admission)

5PM – 6.45PM: Opening Workshop Don't do it yourself Days (free admission, reservation required via [doehetnietzelf@gmail.com](mailto:doehetnietzelf@gmail.com))

7PM – 8PM: Opening Festival by Douglas Repetto and Angelo Vermeulen with a presentation of DasArts students (free admission)

8PM: Film *Dutch Cocaine Factory* by Jeanette Groenendaal (admission with VC Pas, reservation recommended)

#### THU 10.04.08

From 10AM: Selection of Socio-Political Digital Work by Angelo Vermeulen (free admission)

10AM – 1PM Workshop Don't do it yourself Days (free admission)

2PM: Show & Tell regarding OKNO (admission with VC Pas, reservation recommended)

3PM: Show & Tell Douglas Repetto (admission with VC Pas, reservation recommended)

4PM: Lecture of Daniëlle Hofmans (admission with VC Pas, reservation recommended)

7PM: Aperitif and presentation by Douglas Repetto and Angelo Vermeulen (free admission)

8PM: Selection of science fiction film fragments by DasArts students (admission with VC Pas, reservations recommended)

#### FRI 11.04.08

From 10AM: Selection of Socio-Political Digital Work by Angelo Vermeulen (free admission)

10AM – 1PM: Workshop Don't do it yourself Days (free admission)

7PM: Aperitif and presentation by Douglas Repetto and Angelo Vermeulen (free admission)

7.30PM: Show & Tell Angelo Vermeulen (admission with VC Pas, reservation recommended)

8.30PM: Show & Tell Maya Van Leemput (admission with VC Pas, reservation recommended)

#### SAT 12.04.08

From 10AM: Selection of Socio-Political Digital Work by Angelo Vermeulen (free admission)

10AM – 12PM: Workshop Don't do it yourself Days (free admission)

1PM – 4PM: Film *Technocalyps* by Frank Theys (admission with VC Pas, reservation recommended)

4PM – 5.30PM: Debate about *Technocalyps* (admission with VC Pas, reservation recommended)

8.30PM: Closure of the festival with aperitif and presentation by Douglas Repetto Angelo Vermeulen and DasArts students. With music by Wim Lots a.k.a. DJ Wimbo (free admission)

*During the entire festival the official languages are Dutch and English.*

#### **The keynote speakers and events at Victorian Circus IV include:**

##### **Douglas Repetto (USA) – Technology and recycling**

The work of Douglas Repetto entails technology and recycling in the most diverse disciplines: installations, performances, sculptures, recordings and software. He is the founding father of the artistic community Dorkbot – *people doing strange things with electricity* – and his work is characterized by his use of feedback systems and 'biologisms'. (<http://music.columbia.edu/~douglas>)

Repetto gives an illustrated lecture on his present work on Thursday, 10 April at 3PM. English spoken.

##### **Angelo Vermeulen (B) – Socio-Political Digital Work**

The visual artist Angelo Vermeulen became widely known with his bio-installations and installations with living organisms interlaced with science-fiction references. More recently he also investigated the ins and outs of the gaming culture. His photography, video, new media and installations derive from his experimental quests for art. ([www.angelovermeulen.net](http://www.angelovermeulen.net))

Angelo gives an illustrated lecture on his current work on Friday, 11 April at 7.30PM. He also makes a selection of Socio-Political Digital Work.

### Aperitif and Presentation

During *Victorian Circus IV* Douglas Repetto and Angelo Vermeulen also work together. They investigate feedback systems by means of electro-magnetic machines. How can machines give feedback on their own experiential process and possible failure? Can machines learn from their mistakes? Every evening at 7PM they report on their experiments in a short presentation.

### WORKSHOP – Helping each other during the *Don't Do It Yourself Days*

Victorian Circus is not only generous with established experts. Young creative artists too can do their things during the festival. Are you in search of inspiration, new thrills or serious feedback? Or do you just want to exchange views with others? Enter yourself as a candidate for the *Don't Do It Yourself Days*. Marcel Van der Drift (NL) and Arnoud van den Heuvel (NL) bring the right talents and experts together. Interested? Send us your motivation to [doehetnietzelf@gmail.com](mailto:doehetnietzelf@gmail.com). On the basis of this a selection among the candidates will be made.

### DasArts – *Advanced Studies in the Performing Arts*

Together with DasArts Brakke Grond treats the audience to a fascinating daily *Show and Tell* in which artists and activists try to save the world by digital means.

The collaboration with DasArts takes place in the framework of 'Renting the Shade of a Tree'. Dirk Verstockt (B) and Ricky Seabra (USA/BR) monitor a group of nine international artists from DasArts. Several specialists will be invited to think along with them about models for utopias/distopias and to formulate a reaction on the future from an artistic standpoint.

### EXCLUSIVE DUTCH PREMIERE – Film *TechnoCalyps* (156 min.) Director: Frank Theys English spoken, Dutch subtitled

**SAT 12.04.08, 13h00 – 16h00**

English spoken, Dutch subtitled

Will rat brains in future be able to operate an aeroplane? Will man live to be 300 years old one day? Film maker and video artist Frank Theys (B) changes our outlook on life and humanity forever in the Dutch preview of *TechnoCalyps*. This inventory of the latest scientific knowledge in the field of biogenetics, robotics, artificial intelligence and nanotechnology shows that man is always striving towards greater perfection. After the screening a debate takes place with a.o. Frank Theys, trend watcher / futurist Marcel Bullinga, futurist Maya van Leemput and historical ethicist Gie van den Berghe. (Programming in collaboration with Cinemien)

### DEBATE CHAIRED BY JAN DE PAUW

**SAT 12.04.08 – 16h00 – 17h30**

WITH:

Film maker and video artist Frank Theys (1963, Brussels). In the 1980s Theys gained international recognition in the world of the Arts with his video adaptation of Richard Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen*. As the resident director of the Victoria Theater in Ghent he received, in 1995, the honorary title 'Cultural Ambassador of Flanders'. The year after, Theys established the production company Votnik, where he has realised his films and video work since then.

Futurologist Maya van Leemput (1969, Antwerp). Studied philosophy and communication studies and specialised in media studies. For two and a half years she travelled all over the world together with the photographer Bram Goots for a research project about visions of the future. At present she is involved in scientific research that develops images of the future for Brussels.

Trend watcher and futurologist Marcel Bullinga (1958, NL). Regularly gives multi-media, interactive presentations about the future for major organisations such as ministries, local authorities, research- & technology labs, multinationals and expertise institutes.

Historical ethicist Gie van den Berghe (1945, Gent) obtained his doctorate at the University of Gent with a thesis on the Nazi camps. This resulted in the book *Met de dood voor ogen*. In October of this year *De mens voorbij* comes out. This book tells about the pros and cons of the Western ideology after the historical Enlightenment in which everything can be constructed by humans.

Chairman is Jan de Pauw (1960, B). Lecturer at the Erasmushogeschool, department Rits, in Brussels. His courses cover the history of ideas, technologies and political ideologies of the 19th and 20th centuries in Europe and the United States. Together with Lieven Menschaert he has developed CD-ROMs and online projects and showed his work at various festivals in Belgium and abroad.

**Victorian Circus was programmed by Vlaams Cultuurhuis de Brakke Grond and DasArts; with thanks to Cinemien and the Mediagilde.**

