

***Grindbakken* by Rotor: the art and architecture of framing in situ**

In 2012 architectural design and research collective Rotor was invited to make the inaugural exhibition for a new open air cultural event space in a former part of Ghent's sea harbour that is being redeveloped. Architect Sarah Melsens and visual artist Roberta Gigante had designed the conversion of the 200 m. long series of concrete gravel containers – *grindbakken* in Dutch. Their most striking intervention was to paint over the entire surface of the obsolete harbour infrastructure with white road paint. Rotor in turn produced a site-specific architectural exhibition by intervening during the painting works: they covered specific zones of interest to keep them from being overpainted. These zones were then exhibited as fragments inside the newly whitened spaces. The exhibition produced at once a powerful aesthetic valorisation and a careful archaeological analysis of an unassuming piece of infrastructure, as well as a conceptual critique of the architectural reconversion upon which Rotor's exhibition nevertheless depended in many ways. This paper maps and interprets the important variety of shapes, positions and constellations that Rotor used to frame in 'finds', and compares Rotor's framings to selected artistic and architectural reframing projects, from Le Corbusier to Lawrence Weiner.

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Bio

Maarten Liefoghe is assistant professor in architectural history and preservation at Vrije Universiteit Brussel and a post-doctoral research fellow of the Research Foundation Flanders at Ghent University. Maarten studies encounters between art, architecture, museology and preservation. He occasionally publishes art and architecture reviews. Maarten graduated in architecture in 2006 after studying in Ghent and Berlin. His PhD research 'The Monographic Factor' was about the ideology underlying single-artist museums and their institutional and architectural hybridity, under supervision of Bart Verschaffel and Wouter Davidts at Ghent University. He is currently studying architecture exhibitions as a field of experimental approaches to architectural preservation.