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Highrise - common ground : art and the Amsterdam Zuidas area

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Jeroen Boomgaard

Foreword

The construction of the Zuidas (South Axis) in Amsterdam has entered a crucial phase. The near future will make clear whether the area is genuinely likely to become a success and what it will look like. It will also become clear what role art is to play at the Zuidas. It is an appropriate moment, therefore, to take stock.

In this book, this stock taking takes the form of articles and art projects produced over the last four years, commissioned by the Research Group Art and Public Space of the Gerrit Rietveld Academie. This Research Group was set up in 2002 as a partnership between the Gerrit Rietveld Academie, the Sandberg Institute, the Universiteit van Amsterdam, the Virtual Museum Zuidas (VMZ) and the Foundation Art and Public Space (SKOR) with a mandate to provide critical reflection on the role of art in public space in general and at the Zuidas in particular. The Research Group has fulfilled this mandate by organizing symposia and expert meetings, lectures and publications and assigning research commissions to artists. The result of a portion of these activities is reflected in this volume (for a complete overview, see www.lkpr.nl).

A great many people have been involved in the activities of the Research Group. I would therefore like to thank, in addition to the insti-

Jeroen Boomgaard

tutions that make the Research Group possible and the writers/artists who have contributed to this book, the following people. The organization of the Research Group: Esther Deen, Alexandra Landré and Henk de Vroom. The advisory committee: Mariska van den Berg, Jelle Bouwhuis, Gijs Frieling, Anneloes van der Leun, Dees Linders, Siebe Thissen, Roemer van Toorn, Daniel van der Velden and Huib Haye van der Werf. The members of the Research Group: Lucy Cotter, Ellert Haijtema, Saskia Janssen, Wim Kok, Renée Kool, Sophie Krier, Frank Mandersloot, Sabine Mooibroek, Holger Nickisch, Rianne Petter, René Put, Bert Taken, Raoul Tuelings and Willem van Weelden. And finally the makers of this book: Marieke van Giersbergen, Anette Tibud and Astrid Vorstermans.

The Research Group Art and Public Space pledges to continue critically and constructively monitoring the development of the Zuidas – including during this new, crucial phase.

Jeroen Boomgaard
Gerrit Rietveld Academie
February 2008