

CITY SPHERES

a painting project by Baukje Spaltro



.... discovering the Genius Loci in European cities...

CITY SPHERES



City Spheres is my painting project about European urban identities.

As Dutch Italian artist I am interested in the relation between place and identity. What is the sense of a place? What are the local colors of a place? What do we sense in a place and what remains unveiled?

According to the Romans every place has an own 'spirit': the Genius Loci.

I create City Spheres to challenge and to plea for diversity, authenticity of European cities.

As Europeans we have to reconsider our position and 'society'. We should be more aware of the local identity of our place and redefine our local community. Knowing our own local identity is crucial to understand and develop a more connected society (as social, political and cultural system).

I challenge to reflect on the community we (want to) live in.

During a short artist-in-residency I explore the urban identity of a specific district and paint the Genius Loci of it into a unique City Sphere. At the start I am completely displaced in this new surrounding. Through friction, actions and curiosity I sense the Genius Loci, which I paint on canvases.

I use a technique of floor colors, this boycotts all my rational plans and push me to an intuitive way of painting.

To obtain colored abstractions of the sense of a place of this specific district.

The City Sphere is an installation of small painted 'witnesses' with urban heritage (monuments, culture, architecture) and special inhabitants the 'local knights'. I started out in 2015 in Den Helder. Then I visited three district of Amsterdam (the Bijlmer, Zuidas, KNSM), Turku (Fin) and Milan. My next stops will be Berlin and Brussels.

CITY SPHERES is inspired by the philosopher Peter Sloterdijk.

"The question of **where** we are is more meaningful than ever and more important than the question of **what** we are. We need to focus on the place that people create to be who they are. This place I have given the name *Atmosphere*. Spheres are space creations they act as an immune system. They include and exclude."

DEN NIEUWEN HELDER

City Sphere centre district Den Helder (nl) 06.2015



Den Nieuwen Helder (2x6 m) Atelier Westerdok, Amsterdam 09.2015 made-in-residency @Kunsth45 DenHelder

CIVIC PRIDE

City Sphere Bijlmer district Amsterdam South East (nl) 02.2016



Civic Pride (2 x 7 m) Gallery CBK Zuidoost, Amsterdam South East 11.2016 made-in-residency @H-Lab Bijlmer

AURA

City Sphere centre district Turku (fin) 10.2016



AURA (2,5 x 8 m) Gallery BMB, Amsterdam 09.2017 made-in-residency @B-Galleria Turku

ISOLA

City Sphere Isola district Milan (i) 01.2017



ISOLA (2,5 x 7 m) at VIR Viafarini-in-Residence Milan 03.2017 made-in-residency @VIR sculpture of Letizia Scarpello

PLATFORM ONE

City Sphere Trainplatform Amsterdam Zuid 04.2018



Platform One (2 x 4 m) at Art Chapel Amsterdam 04.2018
Made-on-transit@AmsterdamZuid train station

KNSM

City Sphere KNSM Amsterdam (nl) 09.2018



*City Sphere KNSM (3x6 m)
made-in-residency @Loods6 Amsterdam*



photo impressions KNSM district (2x8 m)

BEEK

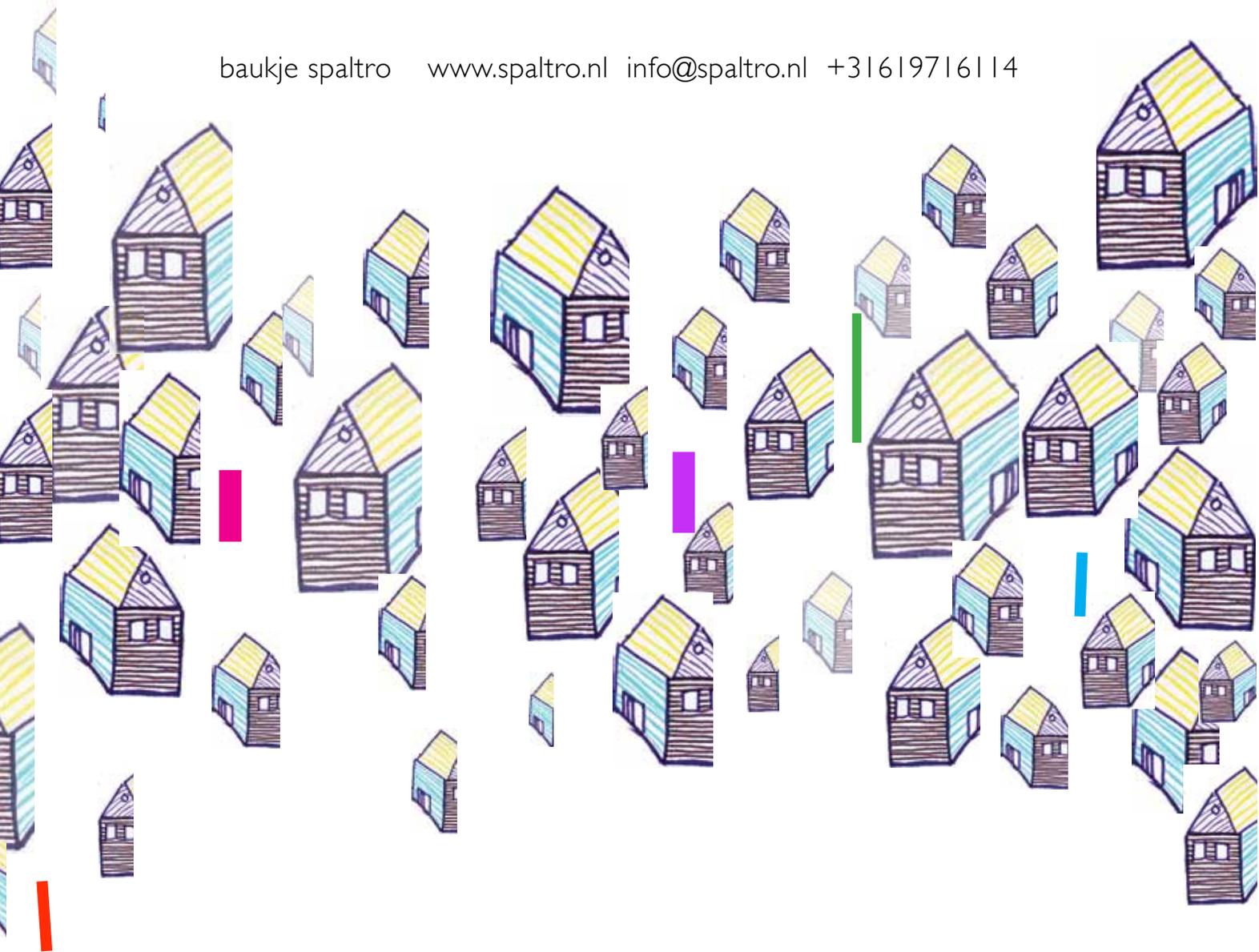
City Sphere BEEK Arnhem (nl) 03.2019



*City Sphere BEEK mixed media on linen 3x6 m @ museum Hilversum (nl)
made-in-residency @LB53 Arnhem (nl)*

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