

TELEGRAAF

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WANDERING IN THE DARK

by Maaïke Staffhorst

Artist Levi van Veluw (Hoevelaken, 1985) builds rooms in which all kinds of things happen, yet where everything remains dead quiet. This is because he freezes movements. In this way, he brings balls to a standstill in mid-air and has a ladder float loosely in space. This, and more, can be seen and experienced in his latest work, *The Relativity of Matter*, at arts centre Marres in Maastricht.

‘There are people who can’t bear to look at the stars. They get so upset about not being able to fathom it that they’d rather not see it. In my installations, it’s definitely eerie that you step into an environment you don’t know. It’s unrecognizable, unreadable and it’s also dark,’ says van Veluw in the book about his work available at Marres.

He worked on the work for a whole year and transformed the entire house into a futuristic-looking maze of corridors in which, as a visitor, you can wander around, in silence. In the semi-darkness you are led into different rooms that exude a strange atmosphere. The spaces are somewhat reminiscent of abandoned movie sets. It is exciting to look around and the longer you stay, the more you get the feeling that you are hallucinating.

Because, what are you actually looking at and is what you see really real?

Van Veluw, who graduated in 2007 at the ArtEZ Institute of the Arts in Arnhem, started his career by making portraits of his own face. A few years later, he hand-built a copy of his bedroom using wooden blocks and balls. He also makes drawings and films of cabinets toppling over and desks floating past in dark rooms. The world he has created in Marres seems derived from these works.

The Relativity of Matter appeals to all the senses, and all you have to do as a visitor is be open-minded. But that, you have to dare.

Until January 17, 2016 at Marres, Capucijnenstraat 98, Maastricht. Reservation is necessary because there are a limited number of visitors admitted. The tour lasts approximately 20 minutes. Info: marres.org.