

Spare Keys

Martijn in't Veld

I was staying with a friend. It was raining outside and we were waiting for the rain to stop so we could go out and have dinner. To pass the time we had a beer. My friend brought out two special Belgian beers and asked me which one I wanted. I scrutinized both bottles closely but couldn't make up my mind.

I don't know I said, both look fine.

So which one?

I don't know.

Ok, you know what, lets do it this way.

She walked out of the room with the beers and came back holding them behind her back so I couldn't see them. Ok, you pick, left or right?

Left, I said.

It turned out to be a beer called Witkap, the bottle showing a monk wearing a white

hooded cloak holding a large pint of beer in his hand.

He seemed to be enjoying it.

It was a good beer. I made myself comfortable and leaned back on my chair, sitting at the kitchen table, while the rain was gently dripping down the windows. We were both silent, staring peacefully at the black table cover in front of us, enjoying our drinks until my friend broke the peace.

'I know someone who made the same work as you did!' she suddenly said.

A slight chill crept down my spine.

She continued: 'Also I think his is a bit better than yours...'

I tried to remain unmoved and asked casually: '....oh yeah?... which work?'

Your keys!

Some months earlier I had made a work called *The Artists Keys*, which consisted of a set of uncut keys.

She opened up her laptop and showed me

a work by a Finnish artist called *Set of blank keys left on Blankenstraat in Amsterdam*.

The images showed a guy casually dropping some keys on a sidewalk and a close up of an uncut keyset lying on the pavement.

...fuck.

I think I mumbled something like 'ah yeah, nice' and after a while started to imagine whether this Finnish guy might have had a similar experience when my friend told him 'I know someone who made the same work as you did!'.

It was somewhat nagging me. They seemed superfluous. Having both. I mean, you don't keep two different beer openers for two different beers in the house do you?

I decided to get in touch with this Finnish guy, see what he had to say about the whole thing.

The Artists Keys left somewhere in the area around the Pigeon Wing.

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Martijn in't Veld and Mikko Kuorinki



For their contribution to *For Inclusion in the Syllabi* Martijn in't Veld and Mikko Kuorinki left an edition of Martijn in't Veld's *The Artists Keys* somewhere in the area around the Pigeon Wing, London.