

LOOKING FOR... is a performative installation that took place during [Prague Quadrennial 2011](#), worldwide exposition for design and scenography. Together with three other set designers, I developed the contribution for the Dutch pavilion. The Dutch Pavilion was situated in a big exhibition hall on the ground floor of the National Gallery in Prague, together with twenty-two other exhibiting countries. We designed a pavilion of 5,50 meters long, 3 meters wide, and 3,60 meters high, without a ceiling. In the front of the pavilion, the visitors were invited to take a one-hour long walking tour through Prague, guided by a Smart Phone. A person behind a window in the pavilion would give information and hand out Smart Phones. A screen next to the window displayed the tracks of visitors who were already walking the tour. In a show case under the screen, there were carton boxes for photographic negatives lying in a row. A text informed the visitor about the origin of these boxes: they contained Black and White negatives of the 1960s, which I discovered in the Prague Quadrennial area in 2003. A square room with two entrances in the back of the pavilion contained a printer and the old Black and White photographs on the otherwise empty walls.

The route started inside the exhibition area and led the visitor walking outside along the spots where the photographs of the 1960s were taken, and back in again. This route could be downloaded to the visitors' mobile phones. With this virtual map and the help of headphones, the visitor was able to find the next stop of their route.

At each spot the visitor heard our voices offering individual reflections on the old photographs. As a response the visitors were asked to take their own photographs with their mobile phone. These pictures were printed during the walk and on arrival the visitors could display them in the Dutch pavilion, next to prints of the old photographs. The visitors' pictures formed the starting point for a discussion about different ways of looking and about creating (theatrical) images.

My term project for the first trimester of the first year was theatre design for the Dutch version of Harold Pinter's play, *THE BIRTHDAY PARTY* (1958). The production had its first night on May 12th 2011 at Het Nationale Toneel in The Hague. A box of five meters wide, three meters high and four meters deep was placed in a hall of 23 meters by 15 meters big, in front of a narrow auditorium. The box was enclosed in absolute darkness, and only lit from within. A podium raised the box one metre from the floor, though the material supporting it was invisible to the audience. The box could therefore apparently hang in space, levitating before the audience. The audience was confronted with only one contracted rectangle of light, five metres wide and three metres high; that was their view into the interior of the box.

At the back of the box there was a window and a glass door. This door and window led into another narrow room that was 1.5 metres deep. This back-room was separately lit. Therefore to open the door was not to open the darkness that surrounds the box, but to enter another undefined zone. The window had a shutter that could close off the room beyond, or open up a view of it. Similarly the door was made of 'milk-glass' that allowed a hazy view through it. In this way, the room was looked into from two sides.

Within the box, the only furniture was a sofa and a standing fan. The walls were made of wood-effect plastic strips; the floor is covered with a blue-green carpet. There was also a skylight, though one that provided no daylight. At the front of the box was another shutter, one that closes off the entire space.