

# Fonds Kwadraat in gesprek met...

## Wes Mapes

Met veel genoegen presenteren we het 14e interview in de reeks Fonds Kwadraat in gesprek met... Deze keer vroegen we beeldend kunstenaar Wes Mapes (1982) waar zij nu mee bezig is en wat zijn plannen zijn. Wes Mapes studeerde in 2019 af aan de master Radical Cut Up van het Sandberg Instituut.



Wes Mapes

### Waar ben je mee bezig?

I'm working a lot in my studio. The studio is my haven. Because of the corona measures, social life is limited and I am more than fine with that. In the studio, I can work hard and concentrate fully. I'm finding my language, finding the best medium(s) to work with for the coming years. I work with tapestry and make paintings, large scale paintings, installations and scenographic works. This year I got a grant from the Stimuleringsfonds to develop my scenographic works. Everything I work on now, will be used for the scenography installation, which consists of constructive works (sculptures) and subwoofers (speakers). The Sandberg\* was very important to me. The masters has really translated into a more coherent way of thinking. It taught me how to look at myself and translate what I saw creatively.

### **Waar heb je de lening voor gebruikt?**

I used the loan for my graduation show with Radical Cut Up (Sandberg). The exhibition was at Looiersgracht 60 in Amsterdam. I bought materials for my tapestry and to produce a painting.

### **Wat heeft de lening voor je betekend?**

It really helped me to move forward. It was a game changer. It got me over the hump when I was studying and gave me the peace of mind to properly concentrate. With the loan, I could realize the ideal presentation I had in mind.



Wes Mapes, Sandberg Graduationshow 2019, Looiersgracht 60. Foto: Tom Janssen.

### **Waar - on of offline - kunnen we je werk bekijken?**

I don't have a website. I'm actually finally working on one. I use instagram a lot: <https://www.instagram.com/wesmapesstudio/?hl=nl>. In February 2021, I'll have an



exhibition in CBK Zuidoost. I'm also working on a publication. It is basically an amalgamation of writings and a formalized research compendium.

**Wat zijn je toekomstplannen?**

I want to continue what I'm doing and to go further into my process. And of course I'm working on the exhibition at CBK Zuidoost, where I will show paintings and tapestries. I have some other plans that I will not speak on here, but are definitely in motion and will be presented when these corona times have subsided.



Wes Mapes, Sandberg Graduationshow 2019, Looiersgracht 60. Foto: Tom Janssen.

### **Heb je tips voor andere jonge kunstenaars?**

Work hard and stay consistent. Trust your gut. Keep working and believe in your process. This will help build your confidence and help you persist through trying times.

**Wes Mapes** (Oakland, USA) is a mixed-media artist. He currently lives and works in Amsterdam. By incorporating a multifaceted practice that unites painting, sculpture, installation, musical composition and performance, Mapes creates space-encompassing multipartite works that invite reflection and contemplation. His work draws inspiration from a vast pool of influences ranging from post-colonial theory, alternative history models, mathematics, vernacular building practices, modern architecture and Pan-African identity.