Artists Residences

Since the 1990s, the Contretype Photographic Space has been asking questions about the Brussels cityscape through various initiatives, such as commissioning photographic assignments and the Artists in Residence programme, which began in 1997, accommodates photographers in Brussels and exhibits their work there. Open equally to European and non-European photographers, the programme has two objectives: to provide the artist with time for reflection and to support him/her in the production of photos for an assignment linked to his/her residence that is in keeping with his/her body of work and interests. The specific geographical framework for this creative process is, of course, Brussels. From the meeting of these two pre-requisites, the photographer in residence compiles a record of his/her stay. This record may be revealed to the public at the end of the residence period, as part of an archive for the future, which, as one residence follows another, gradually creates a portrait of the city. The artists in residence at Contretype are not obliged to take photos of the city, but rather to take photos in the city, as an extension of their personal body of work. Jean-Louis Godefroid, Director of Contretype thinks that “it is just as important to offer personal and poetic views of the city, and to reflect on different ways of presenting them, rather than remaining in a purely documentary framework. The overall concept of the project underlies the choices made by the artists: we want them to think carefully about modern documentary photography which can be a little too theoretical, to offer other views of the landscape. It’s as if we were inviting poets, rather than journalists, to write about the city. It’s about immersing the artists in the landscape and then leaving them the freedom to play with their surroundings. There is certainly an essential, playful side to the programme, which, in my opinion, is just as important as a strictly documentary approach.” Brussels is the place where the experiment is carried out, a sort of artists’ laboratory, but their individual points of view are more important than their “documentary” work in the usual sense of the word. “We ask the artists to take risks, to experiment with new things. We don’t invite them to produce work which we could have predicted in advance.”

**GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

-Contretype provides accommodation at the following address: 1, avenue de la Jonction 1060 Bruxelles.

-The artist shall provide details of his projects and outline the constraints of his work in a declaration of intention.

Meetings between the various partners will be organised during the course of the work, to monitor the progress of the project.

-The artist is invited to provide records of his Brussel’s stay in form of prints, video,... (this point has to be discussed) .These records shall remain the property of Contretype and be preserved in its care. They may be signed by the author and shall obligatorily bear the identity of the latter, the date and a caption.The costs of these records are at charge of Contretype

-Any display, dissemination or publication of the works produced by the author within the framework of the artist’s sojourn in Brussels will bear the sentence: “*produced within the framework of the artist’s sojourn in Brussels, Contretype”*

-The artist undertakes to take out an insurance policy to cover the professional, personal, bodily and material risks related to the execution of his work.