

Fries Museum about painting Gerard Boersma

An ordinary man waiting by a busstop doesn't attract any attention. But for Gerard Boersma (1976) that's the very thing he wants. He takes an interest in just these everyday situations where people are waiting or are put together in public spaces with other people they don't know.

Gerard Boersma registers common people on the streets, in public transport, in stores, waiting rooms or bars. He takes pictures of these situations, which he later uses as a starting point for his realistic paintings. The paintings suggest the reproduction of the reality of the picture. But Boersma has prearranged the whole picture in his works of art. He chooses his own colors and style and he picks his own point of view for his paintings. It's not accidental that we see his figures from the back. Boersma wants to create a distance between us and his figure on the painting.

The paintings by Gerard Boersma seem to be realistic and they tempt us to stand still at things we usually don't observe. The loneliness of some people, the lack of communication between people, or how people who are waiting retire within oneself. And then it's obvious that the situations we usually don't observe say a whole lot about today's society.

Toos Arends, curator Fries Museum, 2007

text taken from the exhibition 'Nieuwe Gezichten'
21 jan - 29 april 2007, Fries Museum



The Bus, acrylics on masonite, 48 x 36"
or 122 x 91,5 cm, 2002, collection Fries Museum

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