

## Resigned urban living

text Gerrit Wijngaarden, from Kunst en Wetenschap, volume 15 number 3, autumn 2006

It's been some years when I first saw paintings by Gerard Boersma at an art route where he showed his works as a special guest of a local artist. He showed large paintings with people in urban surroundings. A man waiting for his wife in front of a clothing store, a girl at the trainstation, all recognizable situations from a provincial town. Four years down the road his subject is still the town-dweller, but his technique has improved tremendously. Standing, bending over at a small table in his 2nd floor residence in Leeuwarden the artist makes his paintings. Boersma uses acrylics, a kind of paint which misses the warmth and depth of oilpaint, but acrylics has the advantage of quick drying so different layers of paint can be brought on to the painting even in one day when necessary.

When looking at the works of art by Boersma you can't escape making an association with photography, this isn't surprising at all, because the artist uses his digital camera to capture his subjects. These pictures are a starting point when he composes his paintings. On a documentary of Omrop Fryslân - The adventures of Gerard Boersma in New York - we see the artist walking through the streets of New York with his camera, searching for compositions for his paintings. Two times he has had a show in this metropolis through contacts he made through the internet. You can't say Boersma doesn't have the spirit of enterprise.



The Elevator, acrylics on masonite, 36.7 x 27.6" orr 93,3 x 70 cm, 2005



The Smoker (Selfportrait), acrylics on masonite, 36.7 x 27.6" orr 93,3 x 70 cm, 2006, sold

Searching and waiting, perhaps those are themes of Boersma. On almost all his paintings you see people waiting. Waiting on the bus, train, elevator or for the can of soda at a stand and who isn't waiting is searching. Resignation is word that applies to his figures, the people seem to be satisfied with the role they play on his paintings. One moment in modern urban living with all the distortion that comes with it, captured in a solid composition.

Gerrit Wijngaarden, realistic artist  
[www.gerritwijngaarden.nl](http://www.gerritwijngaarden.nl)

## Contact

Gerard Boersma  
Wissedwinger 1, atelier no. 15  
8921 ER Leeuwarden  
The Netherlands

studio 0031 (0) 58 2151276  
mob 0031 (0) 6 22477236  
home 0031 (0) 582160591

[info@gerardboersma.nl](mailto:info@gerardboersma.nl)  
[www.gerardboersma.nl](http://www.gerardboersma.nl)  
[www.gerardboersma.blogspot.com](http://www.gerardboersma.blogspot.com)