

ROBERTS & TILTON

5801 Washington Boulevard
Culver City, CA 90232
T 323-549-0223
F 323-549-0224
www.robertsandtilton.com
info@robertsandtilton.com

Capoeira

Curated by Stijn Huijts, Director Stedelijk Museum,
Het Domein Sittard, Netherlands
February 12 - April 16, 2005

Folkert de Jong
Maurer United Architects
Serge Onnen
Wouter van Riessen
Donya Saed
Jennifer Tee
Bas de Wit

The title of the exhibition, *Capoeira*, was inspired by a Brazilian art with the same name, a kind of cross-over between fighting and dancing. This martial art originated in the sixteenth century in the Brazilian state of Bahia, where many African slaves had been put to work by the Portuguese. The slaves developed *Capoeira* as a secret way to train themselves in defensive and offensive fighting techniques, while their overseers thought they were innocently playing music, singing and dancing. The dancers, movements, at first glance particularly graceful and stylized, also function as vicious combat techniques. *Capoeira* is at once beautiful and dangerous.

The artists taking part in the *Capoeira* exhibition are all from the Netherlands. However, the most important reason for bringing precisely these artists together in this exhibition is the particular attitude apparent in their work, one in which serious artistic exploration goes hand in hand with a more or less playful approach to the world and/or the chosen medium, or with the use of elements of play in their work. Just as original Brazilian *Capoeira* is a cross-over between dancing and fighting, there is a cross-over between art and play in these artists, works in which the artistic representation of the place of the individual in this world is marked by a playful, contemporary existentialism.

A 28-page softbound color catalogue, including an essay by exhibition curator Stijn Huijts, accompanies the exhibition, in the edition of 1,500.