

Ole Bouman

Faculty of Architecture GOING PUBLIC Lecture series #11



Designing Distance

KU LEUVEN

Coming lectures, also on ZOOM

Wednesday 06/05 - 17:30

Lidia Gasperoni – The practice of being a humanist today
(Engagement: Craftsmanship)

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Engagement

MEDIATING TACTICS

Curated by Thierry Berlemont

The GOING PUBLIC program of the Faculty of Architecture is a series of lectures, exhibitions and publications organized throughout the year highlighting certain themes and topics that are important within each of the 4+1 Engagements: Urban Cultures, Mediating Tactics, Craftsmanship, Legacy and the Brussels Way.

Ole Bouman's work has shown itself to be centered on the responsibility of architects towards society. He has a strong belief that architecture can be influential in solving today's problems. In a world focused on finding answers Ole Bouman has shown that critical questioning is key in the practice of architecture.

Similarly, the engagement Mediating Tactics is an environment for asking questions about and for architecture, finding them, creating them. Questions can be seen as mediating devices, and devices for connecting things. Moreover, they also must be put into operation recursively, to provoke, propose, and speculate...

Questions are forward-oriented and induce dynamics rather than statics. In his article (Architecture Measures it All: Why the Venice Biennale Should not be Postponed) published on acrhdaily.com in February 2020, Ole Bouman concluded with a set of rhetorical questions acting as a call for action.

Ole Bouman is since 2015 the Founding Director of the new design museum and platform Design Society in Shenzhen, now in the second year of its full operation and listed by Time Magazine among the World Top 100 Greatest Places. Past roles include editor-in-chief of Volume (2005-2007, a magazine he co-founded with OMA and Columbia University) and director of the national Netherlands Architecture Institute (NAi) (2006-2013).

He worked as a curator for Manifesta 3 (2000) and curated nationale pavilions at the Biennales of Shenzhen, São Paulo, and Venice. He was Creative Director of the Urbanism/Architecture Bi-City Biennale Shenzhen (UABB) in 2013-14. His publications include *The Invisible in Architecture* (co-author, 1994), *Ubiquitous China* (2006), *Architecture of Consequence* (2009), and (co-editor, 2017) *Design Society: the Making of a New Creative Platform*. Bouman taught architecture and design at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of Hong Kong. In 2018 he received the Shenzhen Creative Influencer Award.

