



Dear guests, welcome to our website !

All pdf files are open (via print-option) to download and translate yourself by means of a machine.

We have below already translated the intro-pages about 6211-kunstkwartier,
our neighborhood-organisation, Argus, and our location De Breuling.

Please feel free to contact us in case you might have questions.

You can keep tripping over it or dwell on it



INTRODUCTION

Argus Buurtplatform received a national prize in 2005 for its voluntary contribution to life in the neighborhood with an exhibition “Statenkwartier/Kunstkwartier” in the so-called City Center.

An exhibition, with the aim of not only showing the beauty of things and bringing joy through art and culture, but above all to bring people closer together. The neighborhood was impoverished because of drug nuisance and was in danger of slipping through crime. The negative consequences of the influx of drug tourists were particularly noticeable in the Statenkwartier, a residential area with a lot of vacancy.

In fact, the solidarity was revived using an existing quality. In the neighbourhood, located in the shadow of the Vrijthof with its art treasures, the concentration of art and culture institutions, living and working visual artists was high. The initiative greatly improved liveliness.

Initiators have experienced the importance of capillaries. The blood kept flowing through appreciation of connections behind every front door. Valuable knowledge of street-level relationships to collectively free themselves from intoxicated.

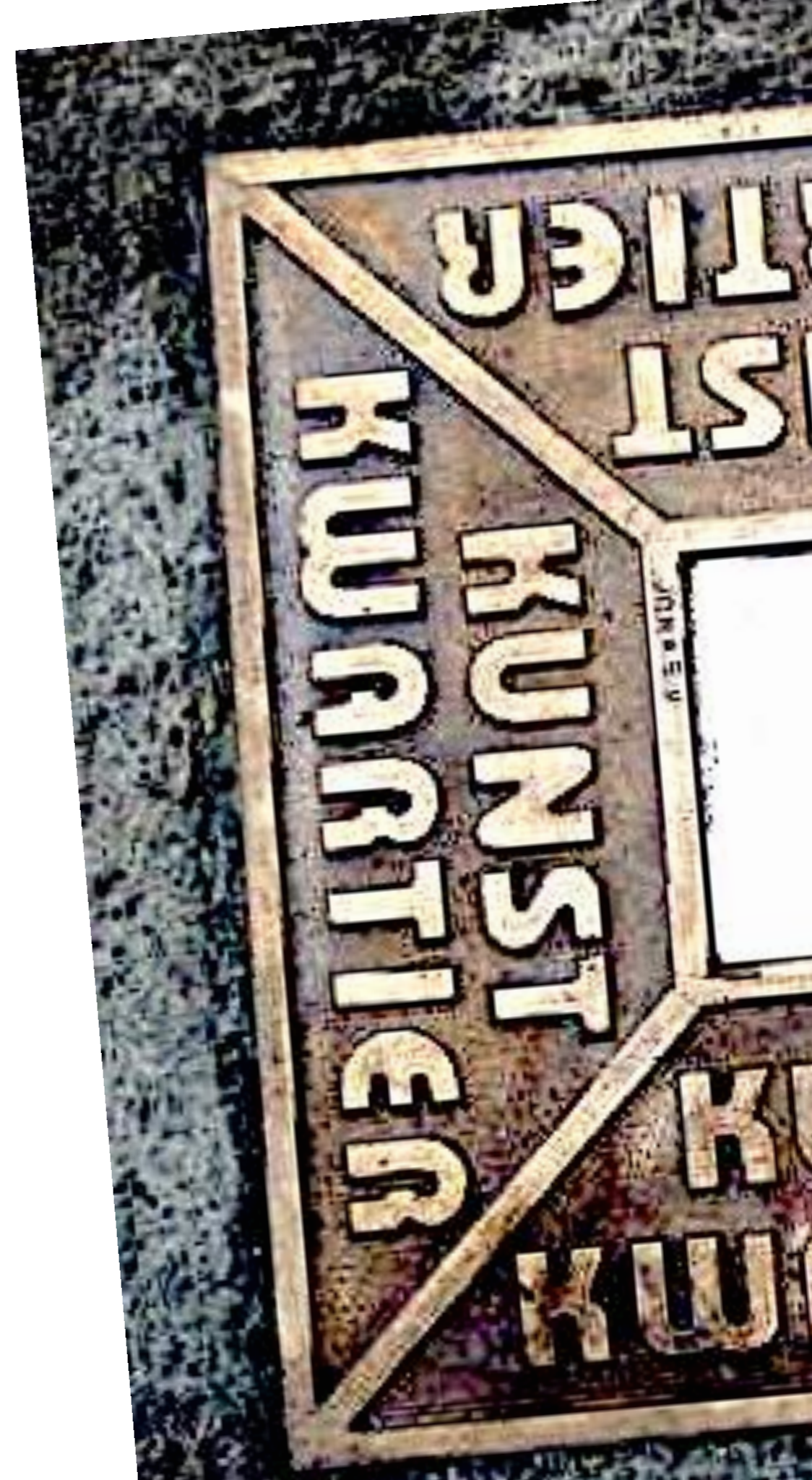
Further elaboration in 2007 led to the unveiling, officially with the alderman but against the rules, of a bronze tile bearing the new name for the neighbourhood: 'Kunstkwartier'. Cast in concrete. The taste for more. Such as striving for your own low-threshold meeting place. The related organization, the 6211-kunstkwartier foundation, has been taking part in Maastricht's cultural life ever since. Until 2018 as nomads traveling through the neighborhood.

Now, with a feeling for the historical developments in the Statenkwartier, based at its permanent location De Breuling - meeting place for entanglement of desire. Again, in search of renewed solidarity, ahead of the times. Moving superficiality. The intoxication of globalization has its downside, which is again visible in the streets and awaits for reflection.

Tile “Kunstkwartier”

Jonas van Vossen (2007)
copper, mirror

Pavement at crossroads Bogaardenstraat
Uitbelderstraat and Misericordeplein
Statenkwartier






Naturally, our neighborhood also went abroad on the initiative of a local resident. 2007 to sister district Klein-Antwerp in the great Antwerp. A neighborhood full of creative residents, who selflessly devoted themselves to the welfare of a neighborhood with 85 different nationalities, including the Jewish Chabad community. A district rich in diversity, rich in culture through its diversity and known for its famous walks with famous giants. The giant Wannes, for example. A gift and a tribute to local resident and cabaret artist Wannes van de Velde. Our fraternization party was a resounding success and we saw but most of all felt that having a giant can play an important role not only in the solidarity within a community, but also in giving insight into our contemporary people. An idea was born and so it happened. On July 11, 2009 the time had come. As a tribute to our beloved, creative local resident and versatile and legendary artist (set designer, puppeteer, painter, musician, actor and much more), the unveiling of giant Pieke took place in our Kunstkwartier. Chicken wire, cotton, steel wire, hard plastic, meters of fabric and much more and all this 'PIEK' finely designed with contributions from our 6211 artists.

ART AS CONNECTOR

In 2009, Argus neighborhood platform took the initiative to temporarily use a large vacant retail property on the Grote Gracht (800 m² mtr) as a multifunctional exhibition space for artists and as activities and meeting space for the neighbourhood. The initiative attracted a lot of media interest, also from outside the neighbourhood, and was widely appreciated. Never before has Maastricht had a high-quality culture and walk-in center organized from below that is widely supported by the population as 6211 Kunstkwartier. Kunstkwartier has overcome barriers. Although very diverse the visitors were unanimous regarding their opinion about project 6211 Kunstkwartier - an enrichment for Maastricht society. The success led to a citizens' initiative with the aim of a permanent place in the Statenkwartier neighborhood in November 2009. 682 signatures were collected in no time and 15th December 2009 with major media attention volunteers, stakeholders and residents defended the initiative in the city council successfully. All votes were in favour, and the proposal 6211 Kunstkwartier was therefore unanimously adopted. The city government given the assignment to ensure that future housing is guaranteed. Room for cultural participation from the bottom up, also during the famous annual TEFAF fair



Reus Pieke has become a colleague of the world famous giant Gigantius.

From neighborhood giant to city giant! A gift to the city. A gift, our symbol of creativity, solidarity and mutual understanding, received with great love and warmth. Thanks to the Maastricht giant guild Gigantius, giant Pieke has gone international.

"Now that's enough charade!" (Pieke Dassen 1926-2007)

#ME TOO

In 2010 for the dismantling of the cultural institutions in the Statenkwartier. started. Attempts to acquire a place in the former Fire Station were unsuccessful, despite the 2009 council decision. During the implementation, the neighborhood is deliberately left out of the game. Kunstkwartier gradually became a very desirable neighborhood to live and invest in!

Nevertheless, the foundation continues to achieve its objectives:

- introducing people to all kinds of art and culture in a low-threshold manner,
- improving the social climate
- stage for the dividing line between professional and amateur arts.

with artistic and idiosyncratic expressions in many empty buildings in the center of Maastricht. Including pioneering work with the use of vacant shop windows.

Titled "Voorschot 2018", 6211 Kunstkwartier presents a series of exhibitions. The first in the series, "Aus Aachen, jetzt hier", shows works by 3 Aachen artists. The necessary space has been made available, without influence on the choice of works. In this way, a discussion without top-down guidance is initiated about the value of art and culture in our EU-regional society. The pompous Maastricht Cultural Capital of Europe campaign "Me Too" did not fit the new era.

Gradually, the many small activities become entwined with care for the vulnerable. Too much to mention, music under the name Special Sounds, with major events such as a Japanese exhibition and a lecture about Thomas van Aquino. Meanwhile, real estate developers are buying the last social real estate in the area. A matter of Kultur.



THE ART OF OBSERVING

Saulius Vaitiekiunas (Lithuania), Rob Scholte and Alfons de Laat wanted to provide their own perspective on the 25th anniversary of the Maastricht Treaty. Rob advised Alfons to contact Maria van 6211-Kunstkwartier for suitable space.

Welcome initiative from outside, a fresh look, but the temporary space in the City Center had to be vacated. Support, at the moment Argus Buurtplatform once again threatened to become homeless, resulting in two exhibitions during TEFAF 2018. A salut to TEFAF in which the installation "Requim to the Orchestra" by Saulius in the ambiance of the Lutheran church with a self-portrait of Luther by Rob, the situation that has arisen wonderfully precisely embodied.

Art providing a holistic picture. A socially critical contribution packed as an aesthetic, impressive message. Argus eyes reopened. Literally. In the summer of 2018 De Breuling became the homeless shelter of Argus neighborhood platform, because a too significant part of the local residents could no longer handle ongoing disagreement with the municipality.

A fixed space for imagination about life that is much more than a look through an abacus. Self-interest calculation. The enterprising shoemaker sees shoes everywhere and so unfortunately sticks to his last. In the period 2018-2020, about 10 exhibitions, some with an international character, have set the new, reflective tone.

URPLANZE

150 years ago, Maastricht, the first industrial city in the Netherlands, survived because of the factories of the Regout. Now the tone is set by the university. A learning-factory with a scientific twist. Science is concerned, objectively from a distance, with our climate. The risks of global warming, while our social climate is already has clearly cooled down.. We are specialized, almost perfect on the square millimeter, but, proverbially, we no longer see the wood for the trees.

Goethe was the personification of science and art. He focused on his human experiences. Didn't celebrate diversity (of plants and flowers) but looked for meaning in unity. The unifying force of the Urplanze. We are all human with our human nature.

Welcome to 6211 Kunstkwartier. Welcome to De Breuling. No virtual world. but in our daily reality. Honesty, sincere interest, to our own nature starts close. At the next front door. At the neighbors. Accessible and full of surprises for the curious with an eye for detail.





6211 kunstkwartier - the world in a nutshell

www.6211-kunstkwartier.nl



Better a good neighbor than a distant friend

"With his hundred eyes, the giant Argus sees everything - attentive and suspicious. He does sleep now and then, but keeps at least two eyes open so that he can keep a close eye on everything around him."

ARGUS - PROTECTOR

Argus was a giant from Greek mythology. The greatest service Argos rendered to the Greek Gods was the defeating of the monster Echidna, mother of all monsters. Hera later placed his hundred eyes on the tail of her devoted animal, the peacock, in tribute.

Argus has a giant presence in the Statenkwartier for almost 20 years. "Established" by some local residents on the street in 2002 because of extreme drug nuisance. Voluntary efforts, close cooperation with the police in combination with a critical view of municipal policy. sometimes playfully, often through the media, phrased or expressed by means of well-meant action. In particular, criticizing the lack of file knowledge on the part of local politicians, police and authorities was experienced as much too direct.

More and more local residents showed their solidarity to the great dismay of the then Maastricht City Council, which saw this way of citizen participation with Argus eyes and was unable to give any other answer than to ignore it.. Local Residents were even warned by councilors about possible negative effects.

Who did we think we were ? Who represented this action group? How big was the support in the neighborhood? At the request of the mayor, a special meeting was organized with all those involved. Our support was unanimously confirmed. A small but awkward silence followed. Then, in a high tone "if you want to be a discussion partner for the municipality, then you should make yourself official!" It turned out afterwards that the government did not appreciate the presence of the present mayor of Valkenburg aan de Geul during this (establishment) meeting. At the time, he was still spokesman for the association of coffee shop owners Maastricht VOXM).

Despite the establishment of a foundation and the continuing less involvement of residents in politics, the question about representation has ever since continued to arise. Signature campaigns for formal citizen initiatives in 2009, 2017, the successes at temporary locations such as the Grote Gracht and a beautiful neighborhood plan were even unsuccessful. No point. Modern shapes of monsters. Patience, like hard work, occurs to be a virtue.



VOLKSHUIS

Argus is aware of the history of the Statenkwartier. An ancient neighborhood in the shadow of the former Royal Sphinx factories founded by Petrus Regout. The Argus Buurtplatform foundation is located at the same address as the former Volkshuis. Regout's industrial ambitions in the fortified city of Maastricht, near the already industrial Liège, met with resistance and led not only to the children's law against child labor by Van Hout in 1874.

In Maastricht, within the context of the worldwide labor movement at the end of the nineteenth century, trade unions too revolted against the appalling working conditions in the factories. There was no ground for revolutionary socialist ideas, but social democracy found its own home after the city council did not want to make space available for meetings. A fundamental right that was given practical space in the so called Volkshuis, People's House, on the basis of its own cooperative power of indispensable craftsmen, artists with ceramics and glass. Steadfast solidarity for civil rights that brought universal suffrage to much of Western Europe and the welfare state after World War II.

Unmistakably an expression of a qualities available in the neighbourhood. Just as art and its makers also contributed to the solidarity within the Statenkwartier when the drug nuisance became unbearable. Now it was not the profession that united, but voluntary cooperation as a neighborhood platform at the service of public life on the street.

Own initiative of neighbors that seemed to be given formal space for a number of years. After the success of the temporary low-threshold walk-in center on the Grote Gracht and a signature campaign, the representatives of the municipal council unanimously decided by decision to instruct the city council for a permanent residence to anchor the low-threshold activities, neighborhood work, under the name of 6211 Kunstkwartier.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Looking back, also an art of observing, described positive developments fitted in a broader perspective. A larger framework of living together. A free market with the Dutch answer to the manageability of a reunited EURopa since 2004. Freedom for self-organization at neighborhood level. Social democratic politics using the so-called Vogelaar funds for neighborhood development. Everywhere in Maastricht, which was allowed to contribute from the available national funds, neighborhood platforms were set up and were given tangible, informal, co-determination during fruitful consultations with the city council.

Argus had a recognized exemplary function and helped, in close collaboration with the municipality, to accommodate the student association Circumflex in the neighborhood. The neighborhood platform disproved the argument of concerned local residents who feared nuisance from young outsiders. Argus' continued good relationship with students was not only confirmed with a lecture about community building during the opening of the academic year (2015) at Maastricht University, but also, for example, in the collaboration of a provincial subsidy application for the accommodation of Lux ad Mosam in the former home/studio of artist Pieke Dassen.

With the available funding almost used, and the free market panicked because of the global financial crisis (2008), citizen participation became however foremost seen as time-consuming and confusing. The language of money proved to be a more unambiguous way to govern the city top-down. The neighborhood platforms became victims on the political stage. Agreements, rights and obligations, only part of political negotiation. Trade-offs lacking principles or metaphorically lacking an anchor. A downside of social democracy, that from its start used the threat of the socialist revolution instrumentally as its *raison d'être*. Western Europe the luster, Central and Eastern Europe for a long time behind an "iron curtain". Our common Europe is now no physical borders, but isn't it time to set moral borders? Limit own interests and conflicts of interest?



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IMPERA ET DIVIDE

With Argus eyes we look at the so-called transformation of neighborhood platforms into neighborhood networks at a time when the government appeals to the self-reliance of vulnerable people. The welfare state is being dismantled at a rapid pace "in order to remain competitive in the world". In concrete terms, in our streets, this means that there is no longer any empty buildings, the Statenkwartier has become an attractive investment object, but an increasing feeling of emptiness. Loneliness, emptiness of being together, behind front-doors, which increasingly remain closed. Might we be near to confusion..

Our initiative, "the blood crawls" gave direction to a future as a neighborhood network that provides accessible care amongst neighbors in the Statenkwartier. Contributes voluntarily, by participating and especially by thinking about the practical aspects of the so called participation society. . How can the management- and communication costs of this austerity operation be reduced with low-threshold solutions, as is customary before the emergence of the State as a caretaker? Questions valued with a subsidy for temporary housing of our activities a former school building. An accompanying business plan first of all required transparency about the various healthcare costs. A glimpse into the kitchen of the municipal government and its now private suppliers of care services to so called customers.....

**verwarring
nabij**

The city council however stood up for the rights of real estate developers, buyers who generate money, positively discriminating people with disabilities, contrary to the related UN convention, regarding the accessibility of the school building. All those involved, including the intended buyer of the former Lumiere cinema building, found a joint solution for both buildings on the site, but the Municipal Executive decides otherwise without motivation and doing so placed Argus rücksichtslos with his back against the wall. Set neighbors up against each other. An old principle in our former Roman city. Not any transparency about the interests behind the explosively rising healthcare costs, but an overview of the subsidies received by Argus over 15 years at the request of the city council . Argus has repeatedly been publicly pilloried. This time without critical sound from the local media, who are allowed to report payed on the work of the city-council . Facts don't matter. Management is a matter of communication. Image-building. Carelessly and arbitrarily composed images from a powerful position.



NEIGHBORHOODPLAN: PLAN-B

Argus also sat now, facing, in our opinion, unreasonable municipal decision-making, in which the principles of good public governance are violated, of course not standing still and was doing what it should do in a democratic constitutional state. We objected and, if necessary, asked the judge, such as the parents in the well-known national sp called "allowance affair" - toeslagenaffaire, to review the established culture of the executive power(s).

In 2018 we successfully defended our subsidy application "neighborhood recipes - neighborhood & care" in preparation of the neighborhood plan of the Statenkwartier. The council of B&W makes a cynical condition that we have a space available. Fortunately, the 6211 Kunstkwartier foundation, which arose from Argus activities, offered refuge at its new permanent location: De Breuling.

New sobering elan, a first step towards complete independence, which resulted in an idiosyncratic neighborhood plan. Plan-B without a (local-)government being a (cooperation) partner. Our vision statement ahead of the Covid time.

Over the past 4 years, the coalition agreement "Borderless & Relaxed" has given direction to municipal decision-making. Argus has been closely monitoring local politics from the public gallery for over 15 years and feels quite the opposite. The city council has stiffened and is allowing an increasingly smaller group of insiders to actively participate in the distribution of a budget of more than EUR 500 million per year. The neighborhood networks have de facto been sidelined. Residents are allowed to contribute ideas about the distribution of EUR 300 thousand per year. The citizen's budget. Toys for the new children's mayor.

For the young adults, our near future, we were still committed to an application "Very normal, just die" as a testing ground for the interpretation of the so-called service time for society. In collaboration with the boards of the various student-organizations, we created our own program for studium generale - the living arts, with visual arts as an expression of the modern challenges in our neighbourhood. We consciously involved young people in doing so independently, out-of-the-box, thinking along and/or shaping their future. Ahead of the time. In the Netherlands, at least that's what the negative review showed.

When asked, neither the mayor nor the representatives of the people in Maastricht have so far refused to respond to the question of assessing the integrity of the aldermen involved in the processing of subsidy (applications) that unnecessarily hampered the continued existence of the neighborhood platform.

THE BROOM

Argus remains protector. Looking at the surrounding life calmly, acting from its strength, the necessary self-control and suspicion. The broader picture offers an illuminating perspective again. The contract with the students from the former free state of Hong Kong, who are fighting for their civil rights. There, the rules of the game have changed with the unification within the People's Republic of China (1.4 billion inhabitants). In Maastricht, not a republic of friends, the Dutch legislation applies to everyone for the time being.

The Covid time has put the pressure on our almost self-evident freedoms. The relationship of neighbors with traditional advocates such as trade unions and representatives of the people or the media and the police also appears to be fleeting. A masked ball in which the motives remain superficial and it is therefore difficult to determine what happens behind the scenes.

In tiny Lithuania, an artists collective under the name "Sluota" [English: The Broom] subtly expressed themselves against the weaknesses in the centrally controlled society. Government that, despite the best, utopian, intentions, had too many victims because of abuse of power. A source of inspiration for Argus Buurtplatform to now, from the Statenkwartier, want to contribute to necessary major maintenance to the division of powers within the government, which unfortunately now also start to show the contours of a monster in the making.

We rely on the fundamental principles of nature that literally embraces us in Maastricht. Human nature, in which the movement of a butterfly can change the climate in the entire world. Improve the world and start with yourself!





CAN-OPENER

[Blik in Dutch language means can, but blikopener is synonymous to opening an alternative perspective]

Change in the neighborhood and the city is of course simply the reality. Letting go or applauding are part of everyday life. Argus protected the neighborhood with art, when the solidarity in the Statenkwartier was threatened by drug nuisance and vacancy. We continue to protect as the world at large and our neighborhood at street-level are viewed remotely, through an abacus, as a investment object.

An abacus, our world view, in which the trees grow into the sky... There seems to be no alternative. We have to participate to keep counting. Positioning ourselves as a city. Image-building that divides, rules and (adjusts) our behavior. We seem to be “canned”.

Argus now takes care of information provision with facts that exist in their historical context for the neighborhood and fuel the conversation about future solidarity. We present our alternative view, can openers, in our own way with our Image newspaper, De Nachburgemeester, in the window of De Breuling. In addition, we use our file knowledge, experience in the neighborhood and in collaboration with the municipality, to protect civil rights. Demonstrating this time unfortunately takes place largely in court and is about finding space in legal details of established “certainties”.

The well-being of our neighbors remains our inspiration. Living together. Live, not just survive. Let our voices be heard wise when it comes to the Statenkwartier. We are proud to be able to offer permanent space in De Breuling, thanks to 6211-Kunstkwartier, to neighbors initiatives and hope for the creation of a residents' association. Association of neighbors in a neighborhood that traditionally also has many small and medium-sized businesses. Entrepreneurs, such as active still in the Grote Gracht. In their language, the language of the shareholder, we offer artfully inspiration and space to the activist resident, who uses his/her share in the city and it's future development.



**Argus has had a permanent residence since 2019:
neighborhood boatPIEKE
Welcome !**

**“The fish in the Meuse are the
only ones allowed
mixed swimming.”
Pieke Dassen**



www.6211-kunstkwartier.nl

DE BREULING

De BREULING - Meetingplace for entanglement of desires

The desire for happiness is what drives human activity.

Defending self-interest feels natural in our modern society, which has become entangled in conflicts of interest.

Love, if the other(s) want to make happy, not only gives an incredibly rich feeling.

Love gives your immediate environment, neighborhood, also a liberating and peaceful future perspective
- Entanglement of desires.

The Breuling is a gift from the 6211-Kunstkwartier foundation to the Statenkwartier - Kunstkwartier.

Own space for the neighborhood & art for a library and meditation in the Breulingastreet.

Everyone with a heart for solidarity is welcome. The Roman principle of Divide et Impera doesn't fit to us.
We have the ambition to once again contribute to our European future from the Statenkwartier in an innovative way.



BREULING-STREET

An ancient street, originally, rue des porceaux, to a former city gate in the fortress of Maastricht. A fortified town, Trajektum ad Mosa, since Roman times.

Breuling means fattened pig, ready for slaughter.
The pig is a symbol of ignorance in Buddhism



SPICY

Our dining table is traditionally the center of activity. Cooking art inextricably linked with Argus and voluntary cooperation in the Statenkwartier.

Our neighborhood plan is full of neighborhood recipes!

Spicy is appreciated. As well as music - special sounds. Ambience for a meaningful conversation. Being together.

The space is suitable for activities such as for example a lecture or film, up to around 25 people. Any way, the coffee is always ready.



SEX MONEY P
OWER

A dimly lit music store with a piano in the foreground and people in the background. The piano is on the left, and a person is seated at it. In the background, another person is standing near a piano. The room has a grid ceiling with recessed lights and framed pictures on the walls.

A special piano life

At home, in the music store, we regularly had grand pianos as guests. Their surname was often Steinway. A keeper, on the other hand, was a piano with a somewhat modest appearance. He became the buddy, the study piano, of my father Mathieu Niël (1909-1970, the pianist and composer, who liked to play with him.

Kaim, the name of the piano, experienced many music firsts. What to say about Carnival in Mestreech or the operetta Donna Margueretta, who were born from his string belly.

Egide Niel

ART

Art predominates and determines the outlook of De Breuling.

Our response to the departure of too many cultural institutions from the Kunstkwartier.
Space for art that challenges reflection. The art of observing life.
The subcutaneous depth of life, for which daily practice in the dazzling modern society often no longer offers time and place.

Accessible space for artists from home and abroad, who make their own contribution
want to shape a multifaceted cityscape.
Wanting to collaborate freely without traditional gallery terms.





SOCIAAL -DEMOCRACY

We are proud to preserve the personal library of Dr. Huub Broekhuijse. Huub was Managing Director of the European Institute of Public Administration in Maastricht on behalf of the Member States of the European Community

He obtained his doctorate in Utrecht, 73 years old, on theses of Ralf Dahrendorf, who already announced the end of social democracy in 1983, and in 2007 wrote an additional book about the silent revolution of neoliberalism out of discomfort.

De Breuling is a place where it is not possible to think politically correctly about the future of our democratic constitutional state. Out of passion for reason. Social, with a sense of humor and independent of a political color.

Huub Broekhuijse had something Burgundian as a generous host. Erudite and verbally gifted, he continued to ask himself the four famous questions of Kant throughout his life:

“What can I know, what must I do, what can I hope and what is human being?”

Ralf Dahrendorf:

*“The passion of reason is a soft passion.
She may succumb to the general noise”*

SCIENCE OF THE MIND

Self-understanding is not a strong point of objective science.
It is about experiential wisdom.

De Breuling houses a Diamond Road Center of the
Karma Kague tradition from Tibetan Buddhism.
A tradition that with mainly meditative methods to
to penetrate to the very essence of our existence.
Insight into how things are.

Lama Ole Nydahl and his wife Hannah already founded worldwide
hundreds of centers. The beautiful documentary about life
by Hannah won the audience award in 2018 during the
docfest in Lumiere and can still be viewed with us on request



JUST MEDITATE. 

A curved wall made of rough, stacked stones in various shades of tan, brown, and grey. The stones are irregularly shaped and laid in a somewhat haphazard pattern. A dark brown wooden staff with a curved top leans against the wall on the left side. The wall is set against a plain white background.

DE BREULING
WORKING TOGETHER ON OUR SOCIAL CLIMATE

Wailing wall

Gerd Verschoor (2020)
Installatie (3,5x2,5m)
Mergel, Hout, Vegetatie, Japans papier

With this installation I want to draw attention to and awareness of the concept of “Wailing Wall”, and to denounce Human Nature. Are we really concerned with our nature or do we find our own happiness more important?