

Some information on this page is only available in Dutch

ALEX FARRAR

My multidisciplinary practice is based on the artistic use of the exhibition form.

Through considered groupings of individual works, I encourage lyrical narratives to emerge, creating spaces to consider the intimate, feelingful ways in which we embody interrelated social, political, environmental and economic worlds. I explore making processes, ranging from metal casting to embroidery, in complex relationship with form and content, often drawing directly from the 'nervous body' and involuntary emotional expressions such as sweating, trembling and nail biting. Recent projects have explored social processes (teaching/learning, interpersonal relations) as collaborative, open ended strategies for approaching exhibition contexts as experimental civic spaces.

WEBSITES

Personal website

aaeflrrrx.eu/

Artist publishing initiative co-founded in 2014 which I have continued to maintain and administrate.

sevenpointfourfivebooks.eu/

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.instagram.com/alexfarrar/

EDUCATION

- 2015 - Residency program Rijksakademie van
2016 beeldende kunst, Amsterdam
- 2009 - Autonomous Arts Amsterdam, Gerrit
2010 Rietveld Academie diploma
- 2006 - Fine Art Leeds Beckett University diploma
2009
- 2005 - Fine Art Foundation Diploma Leeds College
2006 of Art diploma

EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 Downpour MadragoaHOTEL Lisbon,
Portugal Dürst Britt & Mayhew is proud
to present works by Alejandra Venegas
and Alex Farrar in the context of
Madragoa HOTEL. Madragoa HOTEL is
an initiative by Madragoa, inviting
international galleries to use their

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES/RESIDENCIES

- 2022 SEA Foundation Tilburg, Netherlands For
fold #03 on Happiness, Alex is holding open
conversations with the people around him
on the subject, exploring how others
understand happiness, how they
experience it and what role it plays in their

space at Rua do Machadinho 45. The duo exhibition Downpour encompasses works that thematically touch on the various manifestations of water. Water flows in seas and rivers, evaporates in the air, transforms itself into clouds, and returns to earth in the form of rain. We do not relate to it only in a visual way, but also bodily. Everyone knows the sensation of water flowing over their hands or sweat trickling down their back. Of standing in the rain, under a waterfall, or anxiously waiting for an exam, a job interview or a date. This exhibition juxtaposes visualisations of water as found in our natural surroundings and as a bodily residue.

www.galeriamadrangoa.pt/exhibitions/63711dad9f8f9c01513f21e5
Duo

- 2021 Walk&Talk São Miguel, the Azores, Portugal Residency begun in 2019 and concluded in 2021 with a workshop and collaboratively produced exhibition that took place in the central exhibition space belonging to Walk&Talk festival.
www.andafala.org/en/Alex_Farrar?site=walktalk&Edicao=2019
- 2019 SE8 London, United Kingdom Two month residency in the shop-fronted gallery space which concluded with a solo exhibition and publication.

- 2022 Sebe=Self–Preservation=Záchova Galerie SPZ Prague, Czech Republic Duo exhibition with Czech artist Jiří Pitrmuc in artist run space Galerie SPZ. We produced works in dialogue with each others for a three month period and presented them one after the other in a rhythmic chain that encircled visitors to the space. Opening 27.04. at 7 pm Body, blanket, clothing, home, insured. We need to know we're protected. Nervousness. Social anxiety. Stress. Anger. Sweat. What do we get if we subtract preservation from the self? (Jiří Pitrmuc) aaeflrrrx.eu
Duo

- 2022 Raw Rembrandt House Museum Amsterdam, Netherlands COMING SOON | Picturing the human body as it really is – that is not as obvious as it might seem. For centuries we have idealized our own and other people's appearance. Nowadays we do it with Photoshop, plastic surgery and filters on social media. In the seventeenth century they idealized the way people looked in works of art. Rembrandt, however, did not. He looked at others – and himself – with an open and curious gaze, and often depicted people with the utmost realism. In the group show 'RAW', Rembrandt's etchings introduce the work of thirteen contemporary artists. The show revolves around works by Melanie Bonajo, Marlene

Dumas, Alix Marie, Buhlebezwe Siwani, Alex Farrar, Rineke Dijkstra, Paul Kooiker, Shannon Finnegan, Milan Gies, Jeroen Schokkin, Verena Blok, Aline Thomassen and Natasja Kensmil.
www.instagram.com/p/CY8gaKTOeNj/
Group

- 2021 Live from the Rijks – 150 Years of Artistic Practice Rijksakademie van Beekdende Kunsten Amsterdam, Netherlands In the group exhibition 'Live from the Rijks – 150 Years of Artistic Practice', artist and alumni Dina Danish and artist and former advisor Hermann Pitz approached the entire building and its contents as though it was a Wunderkammer.
www.rijksakademie.nl/en/public-programme/2021-09-23-live-from-the-rijks
Group
- 2021 The Best Dutch Book Designs 2020 Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, Netherlands Group exhibition of books selected by the jury and student jury of the Best Verzorgde Boeken prize for books made in the Netherlands in 2020, which included 'Sweat', a book of studies of the forms that sweat makes on clothing, which I self published, and designed and printed with graphic designer Chantal Hendriksen.
www.stedelijk.nl/nl/tentoonstellingen/De-Best-Verzorgde-Boeken-2020
Group
- 2021 56 risks, 55 risks transferred and three parts of three risks transferred and embroidered... Vaga/ Walk&Talk Ponta Delgada, São Miguel, Portugal As part of the arts festival Walk&Talk in the Azores, I worked in collaboration with embroiderer Maria da Conceição Mansinho, artisan Ana Medeiros and artisan and textile researcher Sofia Silva to form an open embroidery workshop. The act of embroidering was highlighted as a relational and social practice, in which the agency and participation of diverse forms of knowledge came together to produce a practical essay on communality. For nine days, the central exhibition space vaga was transformed into a meeting point for understanding and exploring

embroidery's relationship to labour, to the hand-made, to the industrial, to free time, to ceremony, family, men, women, tradition, modernity, cultural identity, symmetry; asking what embroidery is, what it could be, and what common spaces are, or could be. The exhibition presented and continued this process. The title of the presentation, which was extended for a further two months after the festival ended, describes 56 notations on tracing paper, 55 of them carbon transferred on to the gallery walls, 3 parts of them embroidered, a large shared cloth used as a communal space for practicing embroidery and an open exhibition of works of embroidery that were shared with the workshop.

Exhibition documentation:

<http://aaeflrrrx.eu/projects/56-riscos,-55-riscos-transferred/aaeflrrrx.eu/projects/the-open-embroidery-workshop/>
Solo

- 2021 Im Frage: collection Delissen Valkhof Museum Nijmegen, Netherlands Group exhibition of works belonging to the collection of Frank Delissen, which includes two of my works: 'Happy Valley', a wall-mounted sculpture based on found arrangements of bikes chained to railings and 'Wakeful (sweat painting)'. www.youtube.com/watch?v=-NU4VHoc1Zs
Group

- 2020 Vèf Jaah Dürst Britt & Mayhew The Hague, Netherlands Group exhibition celebrating five years of Jaring Dürst Britt and Alexander Mayhew's gallery, each artist was represented by a sold work and a new work. I presented 'Bubblestill (sweat painting)' and 'Behavioural Residue (Cherry Bomb)'. artviewer.org/vef-jaah-at-durst-britt-mayhew/
Group

- 2019 Faltering, light under two screw holes... SE8 Gallery London, United Kingdom The solo exhibition 'Faltering, light under two screw holes...' was the result of summer-long residency at SE8 during which I produced a group of 'sweat paintings', "umble prints" and

‘Behavioural Residues’. The gestures of the exhibition process were also presented, inscribing the space with the traces of measuring, marking, drilling, hammering, hanging, repositioning, erasing, forming a partial narrative of my engagement with the site of the gallery and the dialogue with the curators.

aaeflrrrx.eu/projects/faltering.-light-under-two-screw-holes/

Solo

2019 Fall, slump, drop on a bedside cabinet in water... Bloc Projects Sheffield, United Kingdom In 2019, for a solo exhibition at Bloc Projects in Sheffield, I challenged myself to be more direct with the social content of my work, whilst at the same time introducing chance to define the physical characteristics of the exhibition. I found myself photographing sandbags I saw used in public space in the region, which, being a similar size and mass to a human torso, can often take highly emotive anthropomorphic forms. Sandbags are typically used as a quick response to temporary conditions: from simply acting as a weight to stabilise a road sign, or defending a property from flood water. I related this ‘heavy-thing’ to both (historically) sculptural concerns and a physical experience of depression. I started making my own sandbags out of ‘loungewear’ I found stocked in abundance in nearby shops and market stalls. I became fascinated by this material as a new category of clothing that speaks of a contemporary lifestyle spent largely indoors and alone. At the same time I began collecting bedroom furniture that I found illegally dumped on the streets. ‘Fly-tipping’, as it’s called in the UK, is a growing phenomenon that I saw as a reflection of the material reality of insecure housing and the unsustainable economics of mass produced furniture which means that our main problem as consumers is how we can dispose of our current possessions so that we can buy more. Inspired by John Martin’s paintings of apocalyptic floods, I brought these elements together by flooding the gallery with shallow water,

creating a narrative in which the sand-filled loungewear climbed on top of the bedroom furniture and became marooned on flat packed islands.

aaeflrrrx.eu/projects/fall.-slump.-drop-on-a-bedside-cabinet-in-water/#Solo

- 2019 Ecstatic, darkling with... Dürst Britt & Mayhew The Hague, Netherlands Solo exhibition developed on a residency with Onomatopee, Eindhoven, bringing together groupings of four interrelated series of works: 'Night sweat paintings', 'Semblable wood', 'Rubin's cornice' and "'umble prints". It was the first in a series that I made in 2019 that explored domestic scenes through lyrical 'dream spaces' between imagination and reality. In the gallery of Dürst Britt & Mayhew the juxtaposition of a diverse arrangement of works was used to explore a shifting perspective of lived experience. Please see the images and information regarding 'Semblable wood', various 'sweat paintings' and 'Fumble' in the works portfolio.

aaeflrrrx.eu/projects/ecstatic-darkling-with/#Solo

- 2019 Angst, reverie, bumble, grumble, ecstatic, lucid, limned with nine semblable stumps Art Rotterdam Rotterdam, Netherlands Solo presentation made up of 'Night sweat paintings', 'Semblable wood' and "'umble prints". It was intended as an introduction to the exhibition 'Ecstatic, darkling with...' that opened at Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague, in the following week.

[Solo](#)

- 2019 Double Negative Chashama New York Group exhibition about art, text and the unreliability of language, curated and produced by Darling Green. Double Negative included 69 works by 34 artists, most of which were shown in New York for the first time. I presented two "'umble prints" which were produced remotely by the curators.

chashama.org/event/double-negative/Group

COMMISSIONS

- 2017 The Red Cross 150 Year Commemorative Coin Koninklijke Nederlandse Munt The Hague, Netherlands I was invited to produce a proposal for a coin commemorating 150 years of the Dutch Red Cross organisation.
- 2015 The 2015 Tetley's Collection Artists' Commission The Tetley/Carlsburg The 2015 Tetley's Collection Artists' Commission, United Kingdom For an invitation to propose an artists range of Tetley ephemera (drip mats, bar runners, pump clips etc) that would focus on the former brewery's extensive history and heritage, I made marbled paper using a bath of ale (rather than the usual water) and a selection of bright oil based paints that produced an incongruous backdrop for the logos provided. aaeflrrx.eu/projects/the-tetley-artist-collection/
- 2009 The Westergasfabriek Circle Cultuurpark Westergasfabriek Amsterdam, Netherlands Beginning at the same spot in the centre of the Westergasfabriek park (Amsterdam), visitors can take a digital tour leading them to walk in a circle. It is imagined that over time participants will be responsible for treading a monumental drawing onto the surface of the park, collectively forming a portrait of a community. aaeflrrx.eu/projects/the-westergasfabriek-circle/#All

PUBLICATIONS

- 2020 Sweat Book 7.45 Books Alex Farrar, George Vasey Amsterdam, Netherlands aaeflrrx.eu/projects/sweat/# In 2020 I collected all of the preparatory drawings I had made for sweat paintings in an artists' book, designed and riso-printed with Studio Hendriksen. The studies are a step between researching images of sweat and making the paintings, with their job being to abstract sweat from its context, ahead of displacing it into the space of a painting. Sweat was conceived to expand on this process, share the original sources and linger on the subject. I self-published Sweat under The Kippenberger Challenge imprint '7.45 Books' and secured international distribution for it through Motto Books. It was nominated for De Best Verzorgde Boeken 2020 by a student jury.
- 2019 Wimper Book Mulberry Tree Press Nicolas de Oliveira and Nicola Oxley, David Price, Alex Farrar London, United Kingdom aaeflrrx.eu/projects/wimper/# 81 found eyelashes were scanned directly on to the drum of a risograph printer and printed, one per spread, to irritate the context of an exhibition catalogue published to accompany the exhibition 'Faltering, light under two screw holes...' at SE8 Gallery, London. The book was designed with Chantal Hendriksen, I riso-printed the main book block in her studio, with additional offset printing of the cover and inserts taken care of by Lenoirschuring. Published under SE8's imprint Mulberry Tree Press, it was nominated by the student jury for Best Verzorgde Boeken 2019

REVIEWS

- 2022 Het lichaam als esthetisch ongenoegen Newspaper Schuringa, Hagar Amsterdam, Netherlands mwnl.eu/MoqT1t5 Highlighted in a review of the group exhibition 'Rauw' at Rembrandthuis.
- 2022 Net als Rembrandt laten deze dertien kunstenaars het echte lichaam zien

AWARDS AND GRANTS

- 2022 Mondriaan Fonds Artist Basic mondriaan fonds Amsterdam, Netherlands Stipend to support my practice for the next three years.
- 2021 The Best Dutch Book Design 2020 student selection Stichting De Best Verzorgde Boeken, Amsterdam, NL Amsterdam, Netherlands Annual book prize celebrating

	Newspaper Binsbergen, Sarah van Amsterdam, Netherlands mwnl.eu/31tH3Qm Highlighted in a review of the group exhibition 'Rauw' at Rembrandthuis.		33 of the best books made in the Netherlands. In 2021 the artists' book 'Sweat' which I self-published, printed and co-designed with Chantal Hendriksen in 2020 was awarded the prize by the student jury.
2021	De Best Verzorgde Boeken van 2020: van het uitzicht tijdens de lockdown tot een verborgen verzameling zweetplekken Newspaper Ekker, Jan Pieter Amsterdam, Netherlands www.parool.nl/privacy-wall/accept?redirectUri=%2Fkunst-media%2Fde-best-verzorgde-boeken-van-2020-van-het-uitzicht-tijdens-de-lockdown-tot-een-verborgen-verzameling-zweetplekken%7Eb5ae8fa1%2F&authId=ad22c4de-2443-4387-9c95-2ddaee2a5de&referrer=https%3A%2F Highlighted in a review of De Best Verzorgde Boeken exhibition at Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam	2021	Mondriaan Fonds Projectinvestering Kunstenaar in Coronatijd mondriaan fonds Amsterdam, Netherlands Project funding to support a period of research and experimentation, working towards broader developments in my practice, in a time in which all public in-person exhibitions had been cancelled.
2021	Magazine Nieuwenhof, Merel van de Netherlands www.instagram.com/p/CQ0fTcWIT9F/ Featured in an article in Atelier (no. 213, July/August 2021) in which the author connects my work to the oeuvre of Graham Barker's and Takashi Murakami.	2020	The Best Dutch Book Design 2020 student selection Stichting De Best Verzorgde Boeken, Amsterdam, NL Amsterdam, Netherlands Annual book prize celebrating 33 of the best books made in the Netherlands. In 2020 the artists' book 'Wimper' which I self-published, printed and co-designed with Chantal Hendriksen in 2019 was awarded the prize by the student jury.
2021	The title says it all – Over titels van kunstwerken Website AA, JAM van der Netherlands www.misttermotley.nl/title-says-it-all-over-titels-van-kunstwerken/ Featured in an article about artistic approaches to titling.	2020	Project grant Stichting Stokroos Utrecht, Netherlands Project grant to support the production of the artists' book 'Sweat'.
2021	Heroverweging van het oeuvre Magazine Grinsven, Laura van Netherlands Featured in an article in MetropolisM (no. 6, 2020), about contemporary artists' approach to the idea of oeuvre.	2020	Project grant Hinderrustfonds Weesp, Netherlands Project grant to support the production of the artists' book 'Sweat'.
2021	De Rijksakademie: van ouderwets kunstonderwijs naar een snelkookpan voor groeidiamanten Newspaper Dijksterhuis, Edo Amsterdam, Netherlands www.parool.nl/kunst-media/de-rijksakademie-van-ouderwets-kunstonderwijs-naar-een-snelkookpan-voor-groeidiamanten~b4091c3d/ Highlighted in a review in Her Parool, of an exhibition celebrating 150 years of	2020	Mondriaan Fonds Projectinvestering Kunstenaar mondriaan fonds Amsterdam, Netherlands Project funding to support a working period in the Azores to produce a project for the arts festival Walk&Talk (which was in the end postponed until 2021).
		2019	Grant The Embassy of the Netherlands London, United Kingdom Grant to support a Netherlands based artist to realise an exhibition in London, UK.

the Rijksakademie, Amsterdam.

REPRESENTATION

-- Dürst Britt & Mayhew The Hague,
Netherlands
durstbrittmayhew.com/exhibitions/



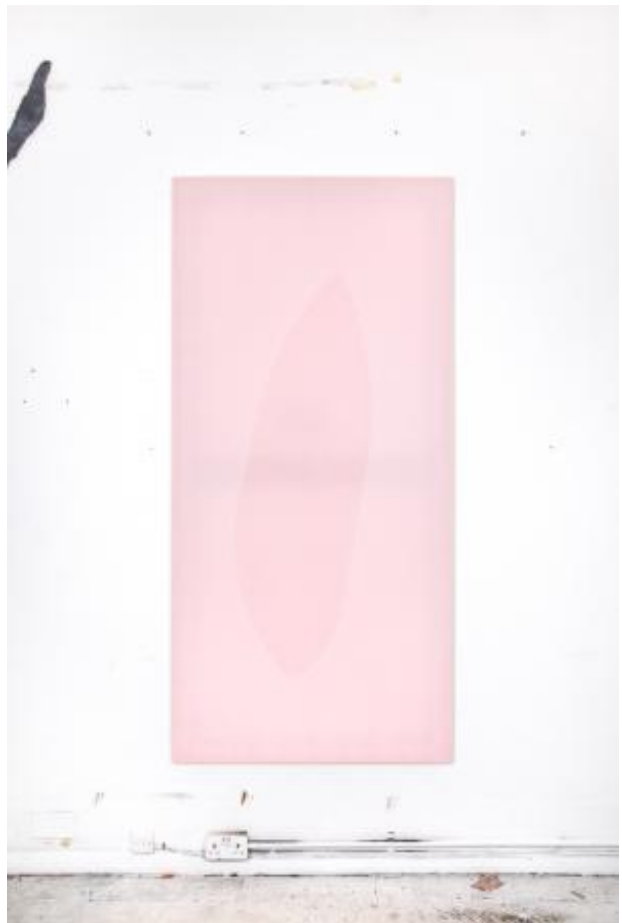
Heavy body (sweat painting), 2022
silicone on cotton, 270 × 180 cm

SECONDARY ART-RELATED ACTIVITIES

2018 - Guest Lecturer at KABK
2020



Sebe=Self-Preservation=Záchova (w/Jiří Pitrmuc), 2022
duo exhibition installation



Soft body (sweat painting),, 2022
silicone on cotton, 190 × 90 cm



Raw, 2022
group exhibition



Darkling (night sweat painting), 2022
silicone on cotton, 190 × 140 cm



'Fold #03 on Happiness', SEA Foundation, Tilburg, with many contributors who wish to remain anonymous, 2022 writing



Notes on happiness *in progress*, 2022
writing, dimensions variable



55 risks transferred, 2021



The open embroidery workshop, 2021



[detail] 56 risks, a rustic stitch, a water wheel, 2021