

# THE SPACE WITHIN 2010



## Artist Statement

We have chosen to place our project under the artistic field of environmental art because in our planning of the project we considered the environment of the gallery and all of its possibilities. This environment of the art gallery is what determined for us our direction for creating a work, and also is key to any consideration of the meaning of the piece. It cannot exist in another place and still have the same meaning. This context of location is key. Furthermore, it is our belief that environmental art is a field which extends beyond land or earth art, beyond works in nature, and means for us any art which is created to interact with a specific environment, be it urban, interior or exterior, and as a result its meaning is determined by this interaction.

Our intention for working in this space was to go beyond what is expected of gallery art, to create a work which is designed specifically for this space and which would interact with its given physical dimensions and character. To push the boundaries of the space, and to use the gallery's physical space to its full potential, to create a piece which is not expected and which does not allow for easy reading, nor easy movement within.

Design of the space is intentionally difficult to manoeuvre to create a sense of confusion as well as of curiosity, encouraging exploration, creating a site of confrontation between the person and their expectations of how to move or to be with a space and to rethink spatial conventions. The difficulty of movement within space creates an awareness of the body and of its interactions with surrounding architecture, in order to understand the space through different mechanisms. By so doing a greater attention is given to the ways of interaction and the ways of perceiving and moving through a space. This offers a new awareness of the space and a new understanding of the possibilities inherent in such an architectural space.

The affordance of an environment: signals opportunities and risks that

the surroundings supplies or provides to an individual.

Architecture is currently designed to immediately convey to the human user the potentialities for movement the structure supplies. Flow, ease of movement, direction, all of these are offered up at first glance to create a quick understanding of the space and so instruct the human user how the space is to be used. Our installation offers no such simplicity, and rather complicates the normal process of understanding by making the use mysterious to the end, to make real the impossibilities of architecture, beyond the limitations of architecture, impossibilities conceived of in dreams or the imagination which do not follow the framework of functional architecture. It allows for new movements, directions and thoughts within these unusual architectural spaces.

- Scott Andrew Elliott & Roel Meijjs, 2010