

Roll up your sleeves for Beelden op de Berg

Freshly cut poplars are the first view of Wageningen sculpture manifestation

This summer there will be two major sculpture manifestations in Gelderland: Sonsbeek '93 in Arnhem and Beelden op de Berg in Wageningen. The preparations for the first, most pretentious venture mainly take place behind closed doors. The prize for openness therefore goes to the organization of Beelden op de Berg. This week, Beelden op de Berg enthusiastically announced that the first works of art have started.

By Koos Tuitjer

Fifteen freshly cut poplars were delivered to the 'side door' of the Wageningen tree park on Monday. Japanese artist Kazuo Kadonaga eagerly awaited the delivery. The Japanese works in Los Angeles for part of the year. But he doesn't have a lot of English words to make clear what should be done with the trees next. The group of Wageningen attendees, which is

available for assistance, understood that morning how to roll up their sleeves. The trees had to be stripped of their bark first. This is no easy task with freshly cut poplars. The trees have now been made completely bark-free. For example, they are now processed by Kadonaga with a chainsaw. The hellish noise carries far into the park. You can now also accept that it is difficult to communicate with the Japanese artist. Even in Japanese it would be impossible to speak to him.

Stylus

But catalogs make it clear what Kadonaga is up to. The saw serves the artist as a 'stylus'. The peeled trees are snow white paper under his hands, on which he draws with sight. In one of the catalogs - the artist performed a lot of work in Japan and in the United States - the effect of that operation is shown. There is a room full of



Above: kazuo kadonaga at work in the tree park on the wageningse mountain

trunks with fascinating graphic patterns. An exciting viewing experience. Netty van de Kamp explains what the Japanese will do in the Wageningen tree park. The art historian from Oss has been appointed director of Beelden op de Berg. After them processing, the trunks are set up against a hill elsewhere in the park. One end each time comes to rest on the ground; the other is raised a meter and propped up

The work will then be completed during the exhibition. Because nature (sun, rain) will not fail. Fissures will appear in the trunks to complement the work of Kadonaga. The wood will also be able to warp. This interplay between nature and his art is the starting point of Kadonaga's presentation. Nature (late spring) demands all the attention at this moment. It is still an unreal idea that another attractive visual manifestation must be realized here in seven weeks. June 6th is the opening date. Netty van de Kamp admits that she sometimes looks around anxiously. But in her bag are the detailed plans for the whole. And this week she also made a tour with the performers of all this art to plan. In doing so, she was able to place a lot of responsibility on the shoulders of people who will go to work undisturbed from this moment on. "A very comforting thought," says Netty. But above all, the arrival of Kazuo Kadonaga has made the exhibition more concrete. And next week, others will also appear on the grass carpet. The twenty artists for 'Beelden op de Berg' have without exception come up with a project that shows a very direct relationship to the park. For some it is an idea that will mainly be carried out by others (contractors, blacksmiths, carpenters). Much work is already being done elsewhere. An important role is reserved for the carpentry workshop of the Agricultural University in Wageningen.

There, work is currently being done on an oval closed construction, which will be set up in the park. The French artists Anne and Patrick Porrier have an observation post in mind, which will be open to the public. The French couple will also be in Wageningen on Monday to supervise the implementation of the project. Artificial valley Although the pursued relationship between nature and art has a lot of subtlety some spectacular things will be brought in. 'The Valley of the Blue Flowers' by the German Niels Udo could be such a striking seasoning. In the eastern part of the Wageningen tree park, a correction to the Ice Age will take place for this.



**Left: Netty van de Kamp:
looking for volunteers**

A real valley is being constructed, for which a lot of ground has to be moved. Blue flowers are sown in this artificial valley, through which the public wades (via a path). This 'Valley of the Blue Flowers' will certainly not be realized in its blooming extent on 6 June. But that is also inevitable when you want to pair nature and art.

After all, the chosen theme leaves room for the term 'growth?' and 'development'. Catalog This theme is also the starting point for the catalog that will be published at Beelden op de Berg. Its appearance must, by definition, give Netty van de Kamp headaches. It is true that the texts can be prepared, but the illustrations will have to wait until all the works have been realized in the park. For each artist it is indicated what the place where her or his work was realized looked like before. A few stages of development are then mapped out. And as said: the work itself is also published. But Netty van de Kamp (and the Beelden op de Berg foundation) also have other concerns. Volunteers are looking for volunteers who will be involved in public reception and daytime surveillance during the exhibition. There will only be a minimal expense allowance. Anyone interested can report to the secretariat of Images on the Berg, 08370-85068.