

Press Release

Amsterdam, June 5, 2014

DISTURBING INSTALLATION OF FETUSES BY AIRCO CARAVAN

Exhibition 'Art of What' on display until June 28, 2014

The installation 'Art of What' by artist Airco Caravan (Amsterdam/New York) is a response to demonstrations of the Christian pro-life movement which uses every possible means to horrify abortion. On banners they show gruesome pictures with the slogan 'Art of Abortion' to frighten people. Children are indoctrinated into sampling little silicon 12 week old fetuses to passers-by, as shown in the documentary Jesus Camp (2006).

These little fetuses are the core of the installation. The works are created with different materials, mostly feminine, like knitting needles, clothes hangers and tights. 2,000 fetuses were ordered, and went out of stock, which prevented the pro-life organization to use them for their own activities. <http://www.aircocaravan.com/news/art-of-what>

Anger in the parliament

In 2010 these fetuses caused a rage from members of the Dutch parliament because of an anti-abortion letter by assistant bishop Everard de Jong of Roermond. The letter, accompanied by a fetus, was sent to all members of the parliament. Disgusting and tasteless, said some of them.

I don't know if I want to see this

Visitors entered the exhibition Art of What with some reservations: "I don't know if I want to see this." But after watching the works closely they were impressed: "It's fantastic. You are making a point". Besides the known art loving public, also young people were drawn inside by the look of the chandelier made of clothes hangers, knitting needles and fetuses (By Any Means) and the sweet pink rug made of 1,000 silicon fetuses (12 Week Old Rug) underneath it.

The birth control pill blisters, swallowed and collected by the artist herself for the last 7 years, were mounted on board. One has to put a lot of effort into preventing pregnancy. The pop art like works were called 810 Days and 1919 Days, including one forgotten pill, the nightmare of every woman.

Are you pro-choice or pro-life?

A collage of paper and tights with a quote of a female Irish cab driver in Boston, made the viewer think: "Honey, if men could get pregnant, abortion would be a sacrament.", said to Gloria Steinem and Florynce Kennedy, two American feminists who were discussing women's rights in 1971. The visitor was invited to make up his or her own mind about the subject. "Tell me, are you pro-life or pro-choice? I have no idea", one of the viewers said to the artist.

Tights were a recurring element, as a reference to Senga Nengudi, who made installations and performances with tights and was part of the radical, avant-garde black art scenes in both New York City and Los Angeles during the 1960s and 1970s.

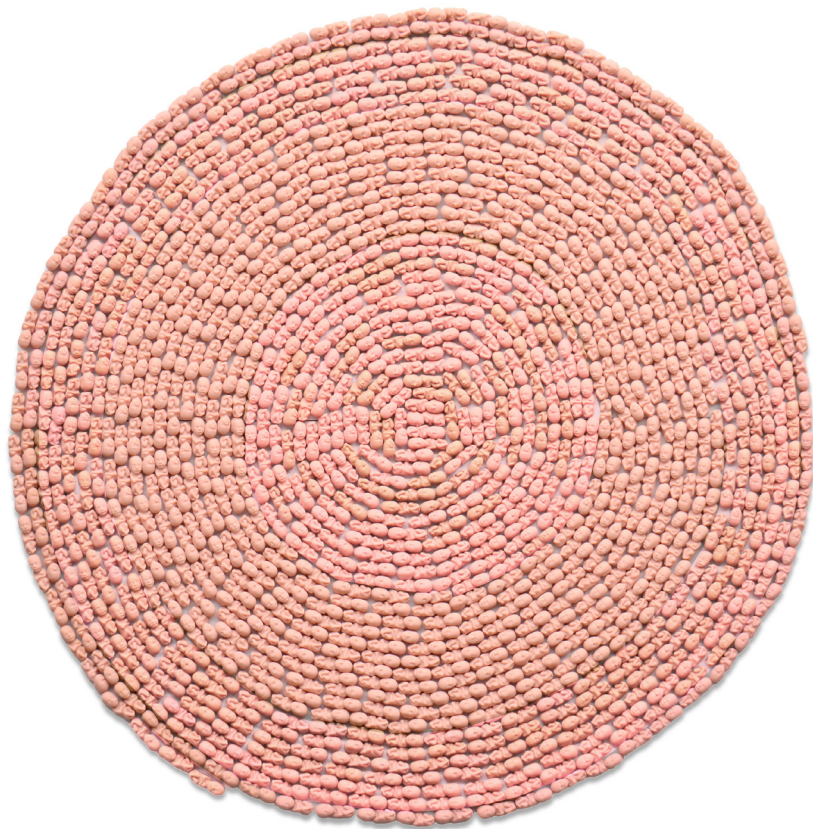
Information and images

Please contact:

Marie Jeanne de Rooij
+3170 363 89 68 / +316 54 361 390
info@gemak.org / www.gemak.org
Paviljoensgracht 20-24
2512 BP The Hague, Netherlands

Airco Caravan
+316 28 225 227
mail@aircocaravan.com
www.aircocaravan.com
www.facebook.com/airco.caravan





12 Week Old Rug, Deep-piled carpet of 1,000 silicon fetuses, ø 51" (130 cm)



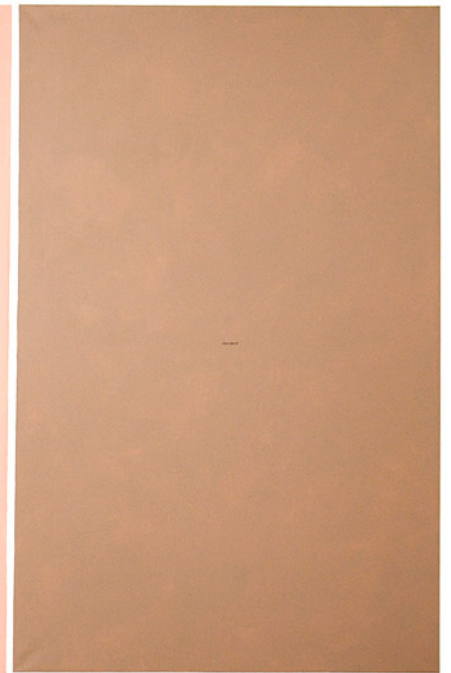
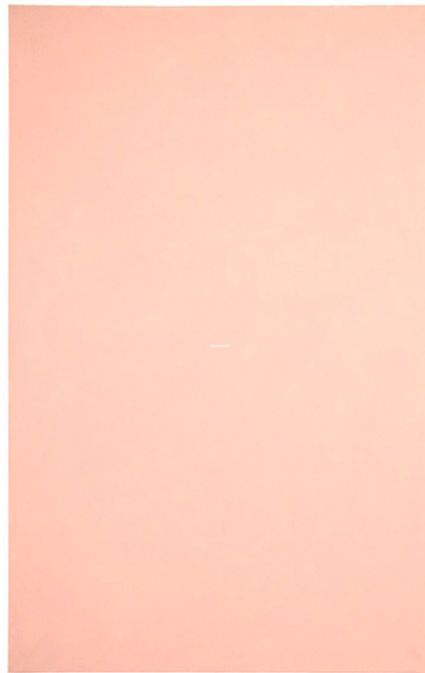
By Any Means, Chandelier made of clothes hangers, knitting needles (symbol for unsafe abortion in The Netherlands), fetuses. 74 x 33 x 33" (188 x 84 x 84 cm)



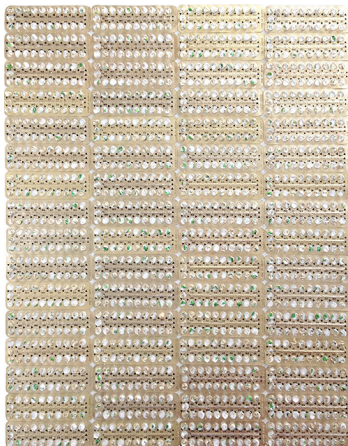
72 Grapes.
3 stockings, 100 silicon
fetuses 4 x 4 x 12" (10 x
10 x 30 cm) each.



Hold on Tight,
Tights, 750 silicon
fetuses 7 x 7 x 15"
(18 x 18 x 36 cm)



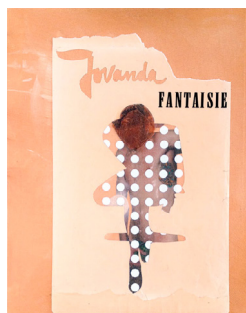
Caucasian \$30.00, Ethnic \$29.50. The fetuses come in two colors, caucasian and ethnic. However, in the womb fetuses of every race are the same color: flesh. Also ethnic fetuses are cheaper than the caucasian ones. Alkyd on canvas, 55 x 86" (140 x 220 cm) each, 2014



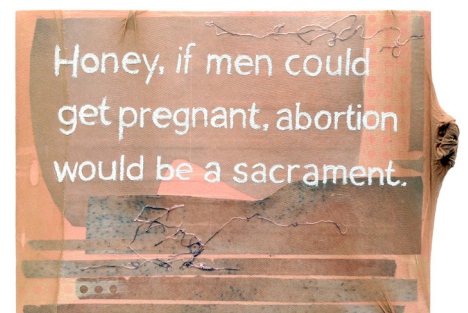
1919 Days 64 empty birth control pill
blisters swallowed by the artist in
five years. Mounted on board, 15 x 20"
(39 x 50 cm)



810 Days. 27 empty birth control
pill blisters, swallowed by the
artist in two years. Mounted on
board, 12 x 13" (30 x 33 cm)



Fantaisie.
Collage,
14 x 9" (24 x 36 cm)



Quote by an elderly Irish woman taxi driver in Boston
in 1971, said to Gloria Steinem and Florynce Kennedy,
American feminists. Collage 16 x 12" (42 x 30 cm)