

**Como é o
museu com
que sonha?**

**What
museum
do you
dream of?**

Guido van der Werve

In *Nummer acht. Everything is going to be alright* (2007) we see, in the desolate landscape of the Gulf of Bothnia's frozen sea, just below the Arctic Circle, a huge freighter forcing its way through the ice. At a short distance, a small human figure walks nonchalantly. The figure is artist Guido van der Werve (Papendrecht, Netherlands, 1977), marching undisturbed and completely oblivious of the impending destruction and danger. At times, there is such a short distance between the breaking ice and the artist that the viewer is left anxious and perplexed. We do not see either a beginning or an end, but just a fragment of this action (we are unaware of its original duration and travelled distance). The performance is 10 minutes long, the duration of a 16mm film reel. Just like in Alicja Kwade's clock, time seems to have been dilated, it is hypnotic and meditative. But, unlike what happens in Kwade's work, there are no tricks or illusions here.

Van der Werve wanted to make a contemporary version of Caspar David Friedrich's *The Sea of Ice* (1823-24), one of the iconic paintings of German Romanticism. The painting depicts a shipwreck in the middle of a broken ice-sheet. Both images are monumental, but the metaphors they suggest are contradictory. While Friedrich sought to represent the force of nature versus the vulnerability of mankind, which will inevitably succumb, Van der Werve's film transmits the opposite message: despite the imminent danger and adversity, everything is going to be all right.

Sublime and beautiful, this artwork can be interpreted in multiple ways. I always see the heroic side of this fearless man walking into the future as the ruins of the past swiftly disappear behind him. The artist as the fearless entity walking down unknown paths is, in my opinion, one of the great allegories of this work.

Guido van der Werve

Numer acht *Everything is going to be alright*

Golf of Bothnia FI, 2007

Filme 16mm transferido para video HD, cor, som,
loop, 10'10" / 16mm film transferred to HD, colour,
sound, loop, 10'10"

Imagem por /Image by Ben Geraerts



