

Migration in another light

👤 Art at Present 📁 video art 🕒 December 21, 2015July 29, 2016 ⌵ 2 Minutes

The Rotterdam neighborhood of Spangen holds a small treasure in its midst, located in the remarkable Justus van Effen-complex you will find *A Tale of a Tub**. In a modest exhibition space this organization 'explores alternative modes for the development and presentation of contemporary art', as is explained on their website. Accordingly their space functions as a platform for research and discussion.

The location presents an interesting challenge because of its size and the architectural elements of the building. The capacity of the exhibition space is not very large; it could only accommodate a few artworks. Let it be clear this is not necessarily a negative quality; in fact the current exhibition proves the opposite. It houses at least six video installations and since video is a time based medium, less is more when considering quantity. Curator Nathanja van Dijk has arranged everything in such a way that every video installation has its own area, without causing the viewer to get distracted by the others.

The exhibition, *The Migrant (Moving) Image*, engages the recent refugee crisis and displacement in general. The show has been divided into chapters representing different aspects of migration. The advantage of this partitioning is the ability to show more art and more perspectives on the subject throughout the exhibition. Presently the program is onto its third chapter called *Arrival: Heimweh, Fernweh*.

Walking into the exhibition space a big screen featuring *People from far away* (2014) by the Zimbabwean artist Gerald Machona attracts attention. The video informs its audience on the viewpoint of the 'other', someone who ends up in a society far from his own, being excluded because of being different and the relief of finding someone like himself. Spectators with various backgrounds might identify with feeling different and therefore understand this facet of migration.