

Merijn Bisschops

Composer and visual artist Merijn Bisschops (1981) creates experiences that offer people an unusual perspective on themselves, their environment and art in particular. He makes total works of art in which various disciplines are intertwined and he works as a composer, photographer and video maker in collaboration with musicians, choreographers, festivals and performance groups. Refinement, layered textures and versatile associations characterise his visual work. Influences of post-minimal and spectralism predominate in his music, which veers towards renaissance, musique concrète or drones to a greater or lesser extent.

Merijn Bisschops' work has been performed at, among others, November Music, Wonderfeel, Gaudeamus, De Link, Het Orgelpark, Galerie Marzee, De Pont, Van Abbemuseum, EYE film museum, Theaterfestival Boulevard, Museum Beeld en Geluid, Meer dan Muziek Festival (NL), Sound Plasma (DE), Arena Festival (LVA), Florianka Recital Hall (PL), 48th Dimitria Festival (GR), Procembalo (IT), NCTU Arts Center (TW). He has exhibited in Hilvaria Studios, Dat Bolwerck, Museum De Wieg, LocHal, Cacaofabriek Expo (NL) and SE Center for Photography, Cinesonika (US). Since 2004, Merijn Bisschops has been artistic and business manager of loA, production house for interdisciplinary performing arts Institute of Associations. From 2006 to 2022 he was artistic and business director of De Link, a concert organisation for new music in Tilburg (NL).

www.merijnbisschops.nl

"In his two-part 'Displacement', Bisschops plays with musical realities, in which the live piano playing enters into an extremely intriguing interaction with a perfectly timed soundtrack of processed piano sounds. ... Melancholic microtonal piano music, which is anchored in tonality, and gives you as a listener a wonderfully vague feeling. The live film images have the same disorienting effect." Mark van de Voort 16-01-2023, Concertzender

"But Scordatura goes further: they also ask contemporary composers to write for Partch's microtonal instruments. A world premiere by Merijn Bisschops proved how fruitful that approach can be. Bisschops' Tangents started from a crystal-clear fifth, which was opened up in a cycle of collective breaths into a rainbow-like splendor of color, full of quasi-electronic effects such as oscillating tones and tape delay." Joep Stapel 27-08-2021, NRC

"Even more impressive is the world premiere of Witness by the Tilburg composer Merijn Bisschops. He wrote his first string quartet for Bozzini, commissioned by November Music. Bisschops makes optimal use of the Bozzini's great intonation ability and sharp hearing. The half-hour string quartet has a calm but confident structure, with repetitive patterns and simple, radiant harmonies predominating. With relatively simple means, Bisschops creates a unique, serene sound world. Dancing arpeggios on the strings also suddenly get new color on the cheeks. Musical experiment with a narrative force. A masterstroke by Bisschops, which certainly leaves you wanting more." Mark van de Voort 15-11-2022, Concertzender

"The work of composer and photographer Merijn Bisschops was also particularly impressive. He combined razor-sharp projected photographs of beautiful deserted landscapes in which millions of years of geological processes were visible, with music for three strings. The music was as layered as the images, sometimes rough and bars, sometimes subtle and full of delicate shades." René van Peer 13-11-17, Brabants Dagblad

"One of the many highlights of the November Music festival was Crash Blossom by composer and filmmaker Merijn Bisschops. ... A performance with so many layers and meaning that you would have to see it several times to discover everything" René van Peer 12-11-19, Brabants Dagblad