SLOWLY DOWNWARD TAGLIBRO

ISSUE SEVENTEEN — READY. FIRE. AIM. — JANUARY 2010

RED MAZE

Preparations for **Red Maze**, my labyrinthine exhibition at Schunck* in Heerlen continue, as the entire edifice begins to take shape.

The exhibition will begin some distance outside Schunck*, as from several points within Heerlen there will be the start of a red line; a painted representation of the red thread given by Ariadne to Theseus, the thread that enables him to find his way to the heart of the Minoan maze, slay the Minotaur and make his escape.

This red line/thread (painted on the pavement by the **Red Man**) leads to Schunk*, one through the front door, another through the side door, another through the back door; but all lead down to the cellar. Whether the thread-follower takes the stairs or the lift down, there they are confronted by a twenty-metre length of dilapidated red wall, a wall constructed from corrugated iron, reclaimed plywood, old doors that do not open; the sort of wall that is hastily erected around a scrapyard. Several entranceways loom darkly from the wall, beckoning the visitor into the Red Maze.

What the Red Maze represents, in part at least, is the disorder and confusion of the human mind. There appears to be no logical reason or order inside, but in fact the construction and the embellishments are all carefully considered and do make perfect sense... if only to their creator. One inspiration for the Red Maze are the imaginary prisons that Piranesi returned to repeatedly in his etchings, another is the ordered chaos of the scrapyard, or the crude functionality of a twentieth century military bunker.

This contrasts enormously with the clean modernist lines displayed by the Frits Peutz-designed Schunck* building above ground, a further analogy bringing the maze back to Crete, to the palace of Knossos above the dark labyrinth that was both hunting-ground and prison for the Minotaur.

Schunck*

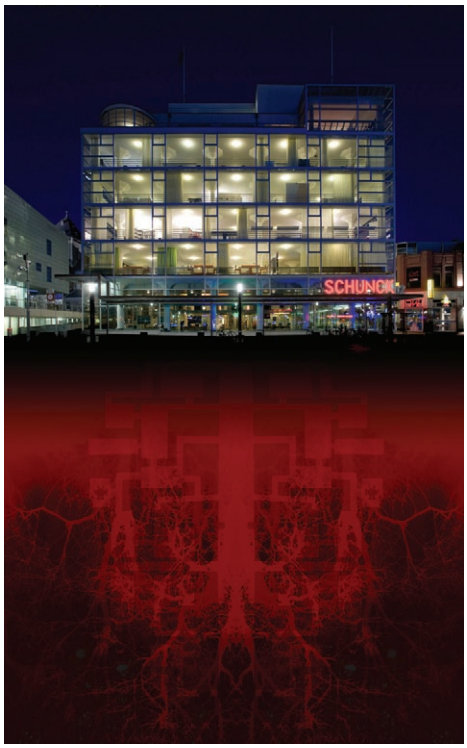
Bongerd 18, 6411 JM Heerlen, Holland.

Opening hours:

Tue-Fri: 11:00 - 17:00,

Thurs also 17:00 - 20:00,

Sat-Sun: 13:00 - 17:00.



RED MAZE ALSO

To accompany the exhibition, **Schunck*** is publishing a book, also entitled **Red Maze**. A hardback, comprising 160 200mm x 280mm pages, the book features much artwork made between 1992 and 2009, as well as **many words typed carefully into a word-processing program.**

In addition to this, also available will be sundry items of merchandise, such as clothing, stickers, badges, and a screen printed show poster. If you are unable to reach Heerlen, rest assured that these items will also be available from **slowlydownward.com** from 1st February 2010.

TWISTED WOODS

In the last days of the first decade of the twenty-first century the **Slowly Downward Manufactory** published an edition of screen prints entitled **Twisted Woods.** Featuring organic tree-like growths and many layers of metallic ink, these prints sold out unexpectedly quickly. The Manufactory has received many enquiries regarding them, and consequently has investigated the possibilities of developing this theme as well as the complex and **rather time-consuming** multiple-layered metallic technique.

As a result of this research the Manufactory hopes to publish further prints in the New Year, using new artwork and different metallic powders. Currently being tested are various **pearlescent powders** and **precious metals.**

These techniques require quite a lot of testing, but early results are encouraging, although it's too early to say exactly what the finished pieces will look like, other than that they will be the same dimensions as the initial three Twisted Woods prints.

Hopefully these new prints will be made available on the Slowly Downward internet shop some time in February 2010.