

**This artwork by Roos van Geffen
would not look out of place in the Stedelijk**

Maarten Moll, 19 augustus 2021

Only a few days left to see: seven falling figures.

Three men, three women and a girl.

They fall forward.

Get up again.

Fall again.

Eternal, it seems.

It is a work of art by Roos van Geffen and can be seen until Sunday in the large hall of the Tot Zover Museum (Museum So Far) in De Nieuwe Ooster cemetery.

I was reminded of that iconic photo *Saut dans le vide* ('Jump into nothing') in which artist Yves Klein falls from a building on October 23, 1960 in Fontenay-aux-Roses, just south of Paris. And to the gravity performances of Bas Jan Ader. *Fuga* is the name of Roos van Geffen's work.

They just keep falling, those seven figures. When will it stop?

It doesn't stop, but if you look closely, if you keep watching for about ten minutes, you notice the schnitts, you know it's loops.

(Subtitle of *Fuga*: '2021. 3-channel video installation, 7 digitized 16mm black and white films on loop (9:36').')

On the entire back wall you see seven times the image of a person who is facing you frontally. They just stand there until they start to fall. Forward.

And then they get up again.

And fall again.

Etc. Etc.

The people are just a bit more than life size, so you are drawn into the images. Breathtaking. And an almost hallucinatory experience that also brings a lot of peace.

Perhaps because of the idea behind this work.

Fuga, according to Van Dale: 'Multi-part music in which the theme, introduced by one voice, is successively taken over by the other voices.' Here, in this museum that deals with life and death, the eternal ups and downs of course stand for that eternal cycle. (Van Geffen also refers to Nietzsche's *Ewige Wiederkunft*.)

One does not fall at the command of the artist, but one falls when one wants to fall. Arbitrary. Just as death does not come to order.

Sometimes two fall at once, sometimes three or four. Then again one falls and the rest remains standing.

There is an older man, my favorite, neatly in a suit, whose tie is crooked from the fall. He falls with abandon. From which you may conclude that he has accepted that life is finite.

But even without the thought of the life cycle it is a beautiful work of art. Which you can also just look at and just let your own thoughts loose.

Director Guus Sluiter would like to purchase the work for the museum, but then he would have to give up the main hall, which would in turn be at the expense of all those other beautiful exhibitions that he wants to show (next year there will be one by herman de vries!).

Fuga would not look out of place in the Stedelijk Museum, or any other large museum in the Netherlands.

Last chance, go quickly!