

2021

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KABK

FRIENDS

FROM

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MARISKA BELJON  
SIMCHA VAN HELDEN  
ERNIE MELLEGER  
HERMAN VERKERK

THE

PAST

MIK BAKKER  
CYNTHIA BRUINSMA  
HILDE FLEDDERMAN  
VICTOR DE GROOT  
SARANG HAN  
JOSHUA HOLETZ  
DEANDRA JAUW  
CHEN JIA  
YUBIN KANG  
HYEMI LEE  
JAIHO PARK  
CHLOE SNOEKS  
LOUISE SPISSER  
YUNJIA ZHOU  
ZHAO ZHOU

K

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ALBA AMICORUM

ATELIER

IRA GRÜNBERGER  
MEDINA REŠIĆ

⋮  
Royal  
Academy of Art  
The Hague

ALBA AMICORUM

The collaboration between the KB National Library of the Netherlands (KB) and the Royal Academy of Art (KABK), The Hague, fosters an experimental, critical and reflective approach to digitisation of historical content. This is done by stimulating innovative solutions of accessing this content within the spaces of the library, both offline and online. The graduating students of the Interior Architecture and Furniture Design department were asked to develop interactive spatial experiences for the visitors of the KB by exploring the unique collection of the alba amicorum, the friendship books of the 16th century and beyond, which can be seen as predecessors of today's social media. The KB treasures six hundred fifty handwritten books with pages attributed to a variety of authors including Brambrant, Galileo Galilei and Anna Maria van Schurman, the first Dutch woman to have studied at university. Five spatial installations based on technologies such as internet of things, artificial intelligence, augmented reality and live projection mapping led to a contemporary recontextualization of topics and elements contained in this valuable collection.

The students are proud to present the final results of this semester trajectory which we - as the teachers of KABK - had a privilege to guide in collaboration with our partners from the KB, manoeuvring the project between our educational goals, the institutional frameworks and assignment requirements from the KB. We aimed at designing new ways of interacting with, critically reflecting on and sharing the archival content with a general public. Digging in the Archive, Secret Garden, Resurrection, Back to the Present and See VS Know, demonstrate a professional approach towards the projects presented through a cohesive spatial exhibition at the KB Atelier achieved a fine balance between the digital and the physical forms of expression, based on a meaningful synergy of the past, the present and the future.

Lada Hřásk, Architect  
Paweł Pokutycki, Interaction designer  
Lecturers KABK

# 2021 FRIENDS FROM THE PAST

KB Atelier edities Redactie: Loes van Eijk, Anne van den Dool. Ontwerp: Tariq Heijboer.

**SECRET GARDEN**  
JOSHUA YOUNG, LOUISE SPISSEER, DEANDRA ZHAO, YOUNGUBIN KANG, VICTOR DE GROOT

The women's alba amicorum can be seen as a site of digital feminist digital activism. The women's alba amicorum can be seen as a site of digital feminist digital activism. The women's alba amicorum can be seen as a site of digital feminist digital activism.

## IN HET ARCHIEF GRAVEN (DIGGING IN THE ARCHIVE)

ZHAO ZHOU

The alba amicorum collection carries intriguing illustrations with objects that beg to be re-defined. In *het archief graven* brings fascinating objects found in the existing alba into the present. Methods and aims of this project are making research physical, reintroducing knowledge sharing, and introducing a more intuitive research method within the context of a library.

**BACK TO THE PRESENT**  
CYNTHIA BRUINSMA, CHEN JIA, MIK BAKKER

Images and drawings shown in diverse alba amicorum are translated into a series of films, where we grasp and interpret the historical symbolism into topics from our contemporary life. We use a hands-on approach and create a material from our academy. We got inspired by the expressive drawings and images from the alba amicorum of Hans Heinrich Oberhaupt (film 1), Jacob Heybloccq (film 2) and Geertruydt van Engelsteedt (film 3).

**RESURRECTION**  
CHUNO ZHANG, HYEMI LEE, SARANG HAN, YOUNGUBIN KANG

Resurrection stems from the personal experiences and memories of the alba amicorum. We aim to network with the people who contributed or owned these books. Networking as a natural instinct of human beings is a central concept to us. Despite being centuries apart, these diverse owners and contributors were quite similar to each other. Four individuals revived from the seventeenth century inform us about the alba contents in a conversational setting: Anna Maria van Schurman acts as the moderator, Jacob Heybloccq and Jacob Cats acting as the contributors, and Crispijn de Passe as the maker. These four persons are transformed into contemporary avatars. Avatars are used as a method to bring the past to the present, together with the historical objects, and digital for the future. The KB building thus becomes a bridge between timelines, allowing present and past to coexist and interact simultaneously in the same space. We see this digital theatre as an opportunity for the future libraries.

## SEE VS KNOW

ALBUM AMICORUM OF JACOB HEYBLOCCQ (FILM 2)

*Fishing was a major industry at the time when the people and other kinds of fish, this is evidenced by archaeological findings of fish remains. Image from the album amicorum of Jacob Heybloccq.*

The fish industry still plays a major role in society, yet in contrast with the past, our sea contains more and more plastic and garbage, so called plastic soup. Any element, whether chemical or natural, that is not biodegradable, will stay in the creatures of the sea, is considered a pollutant.

## ALBUM AMICORUM OF GEERTRUYDT VAN ENGELSTEEDT (FILM 3)

Different men tried to win Geertruydt's heart and a place in the Frisian noble family of Van Engelsteedt. Tobias was the first, followed by a gouchache showing Tobias crossing a river, accompanied by the angel Raphael, and provided it with a striking rhyme. However, the angel did not lead him to Geertruydt, but to Trijn van Ockinga, whom he married on 21 October 1621.

This film focuses on Tobias' travels, the adventure and their experiences. Tobias' story with the Covid lockdowns, Tobias, the unfortunate young backpacker, has been disappointed by the 'cancelled' red signs at the airport. His adventure must wait or get another turn.

## SEE VS KNOW

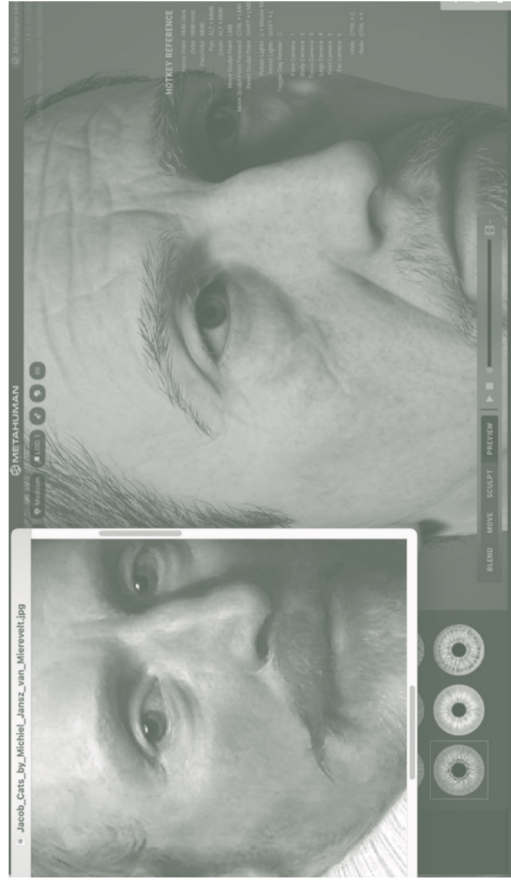
JAHNHO PARK, HILDE FLEDDERMAN

*You only know what you are looking at when you know the story behind it.*

Looking through all of the 650 alba amicorum, we noticed a lot of curious and sometimes funny drawings that we didn't really understand. We researched the historical and contemporary meanings, hidden meanings. This project See VS Know aims to share these life lessons of the past with the younger generation and therefore uses Snapchat as a medium. Younger generations can take the historical hybrids as filters on their smartphone to any place they are going. While making pictures on their own, they are also creating their own contemporary alba amicorum.

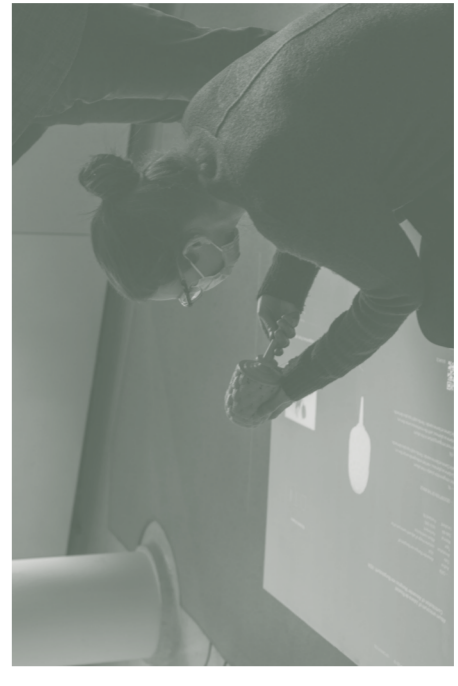


Friends from the Past  
Tariq Heijboer  
Royal Academy of Art  
The Hague

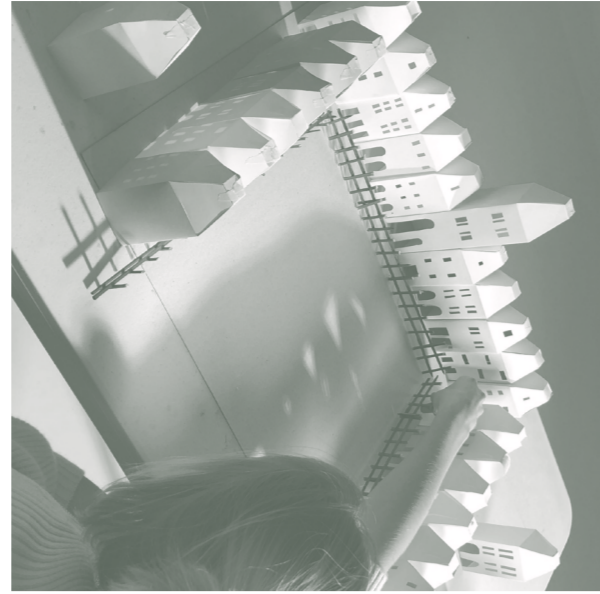


## RESURRECTION

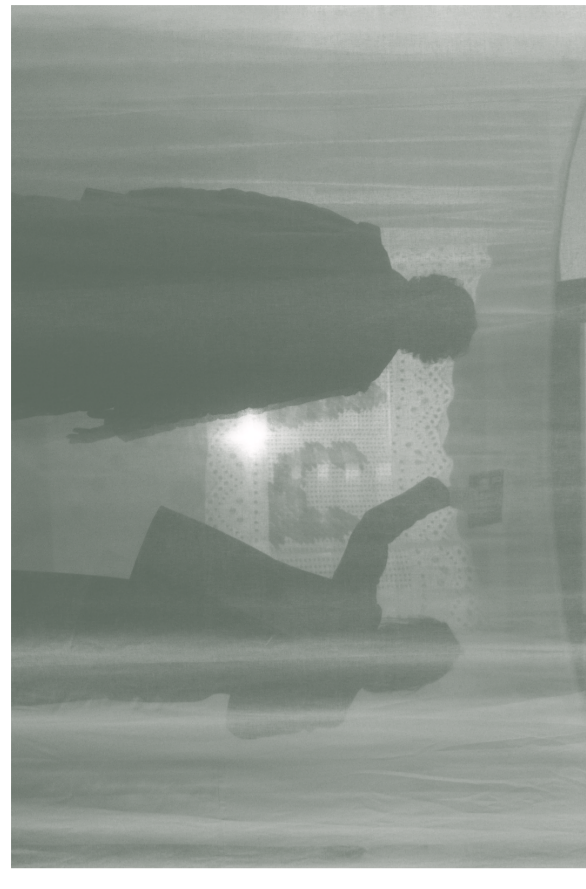
## IN HET ARCHIEF GRAVEN (DIGGING IN THE ARCHIVE)



## BACK TO THE PRESENT



## SEE VS KNOW



## SECRET GARDEN

