



Vismijn, 2004, video installation. Stills from the video documentary, a still from the interviews, installation views, BBK Vlissingen.

## VISMIJN

A Video Installation, Objects, a Wall Text, 2004

*"The Vlissingen fishing flotilla of 15 boats leaves the port precisely at midnight in the night of Sunday to Monday. It returns Thursday late afternoon loaded with 20 tons of fish. Every Thursday afternoon 70 workers gather in the Vlissingen fishing hall to work over night and sort the fish according to its size. No machine is able to sort 20 tons of fish over night, and to prepare it to be sold the next morning. For the job, machines would need one week, and each day of the week two boats of the flotilla would have to be returning from fishing. For some fisherman, that would mean working Sundays. The fishermen of Vlissingen are religious and don't want to work Sundays. Therefore, the fish is still sorted out manually every Thursday night. It is the last place in the Netherlands where fish is sorted this way."*(the wall text)

It is an experimental documentary showing the complete working process taking place in the fishing hall in the Dutch town of Vlissingen, expanded through objects and a wall text.

The image is split in four and shows fishing boats leaving their port and, later on, returning; the process of unloading the fish from the boats, and then a group of 70 people sorting manually the fish in creates in a huge fishing hall during one entire night; then storing the fish, fish being sold the next morning and finally trucks uploading the fish to be transported. The actions take place in the communal fishing company of the town of Vlissingen, the Netherlands. In 35 minutes, the video documents the working process using images as the only tool to show the space and dynamic structure of the workflow in the fishing company.

In its original site specific set up in an exhibition space in the town of Vlissingen, the installation included beside video projection two monitors featuring interviews with several workers, and an installation of over 200 fish crates that added an odor to the installation. In the interviews the workers were asked for their opinion on the actual international political situation, what would they erase from the history, and what is the most important for a good life.