

# *Willem Heeffler*

I started my studies at the Design Academy in the department of Public Space in Eindhoven, Netherlands. With Professor Wim Cuyvers I went to Tirana (Albania), Brussels, and Picos de Europe to look-out for the real "Public Space". Spaces where anyone can do anything at any given moment; the non-private and the economically uninteresting spaces. The weak and the vulnerable (junkies, gypsies, homeless people?) are seen as the ones who can point us towards the real public space. While trying to understand the space around us our work resulted in planning schemes for various cities.

I graduated as an Industrial Designer in 2004 after which I went to the Baltic States to capture the Russian heritage of the countryside. As a great admirer of Bernd and Hilla Becher I followed their footsteps as they have been recording the heritage of an industrial past in Germany. Not only their subjects including water towers, storage silos and barns have inspired me, more so their complex way of capturing images. Avoiding shadows, hard light, expressive distortion as well as human intrusive plants and animals. All grounded in a formal factual clarity.

In 2005 I moved to Dublin and started working for an interior design company Scudding Clouds. I retained my fascination in public space and Dublin has been more than interesting. The picture shown is one out of a series named "Anonymous sculptures Ballymun"

The next project will be in Tramore, Ireland's holiday resort. Waterford city council has big developing plans for that region and it might not be too long before a bit of Irish history is lost.

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