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MANDERCIRCLES

Paul de Kort



last harvest and the start of excavation works in 1999



Jannink on the Unimog



topografische dienst 1983

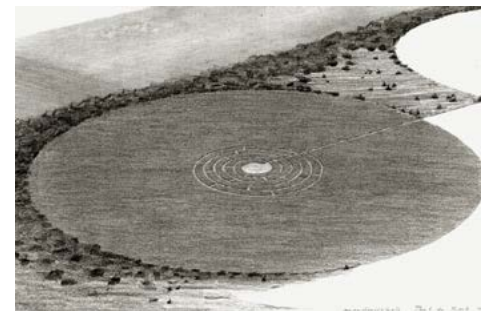
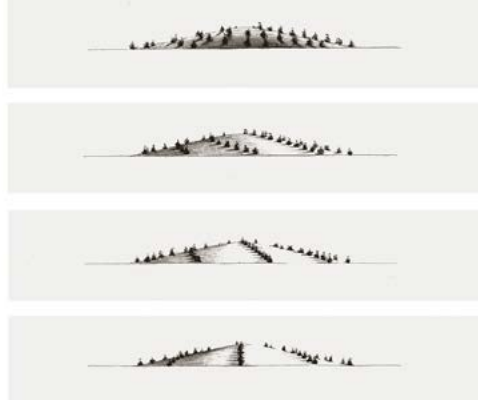
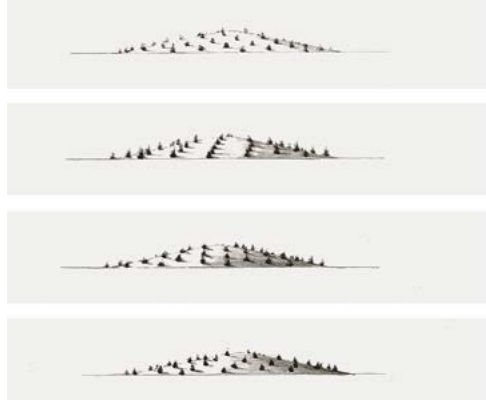
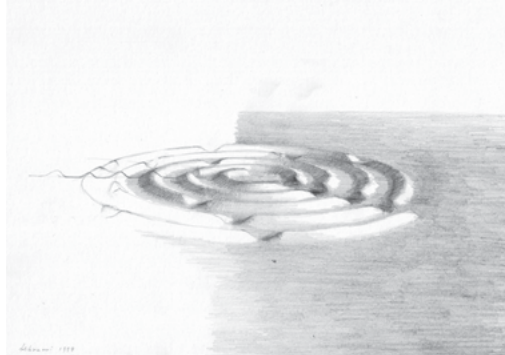
DE MANDERCIRCLES is a piece of land art situated on top of the remains of an agricultural experiment from 1929. Textile producer Gerhard Jannink constructed two circular plots that year with a diameter of 343 and 378 meters respectively in northern Manderheide. The fields were treated in a spiralling motion, this way the plough did not need to turn around again and again.

In the sixty years since, our perception of areas such as the Manderheide has shifted from viewing them as rough ground that needs to be excavated to seeing them as nature that needs to be cherished. In 1991, the Landschap Overijssel foundation bought the circular plots from the Jannink family with the intention of giving the area back to nature.

This piece of land art intends to embed these extraordinary shapes into the landscape permanently. A ditch and shore mark the perimeter, and a hill with juniper bushes and a large labyrinth accentuate the centre-points. These interventions remind of the image of the helical furrows and the sowing and reaping in the consistent cadence of the seasons. Meanwhile, nature can stake its claim over the circles once again.

Location; Uelserweg Tubbergen, Overijssel
 Owner; Landschap Overijssel
 Design; 1993,1994/ execution 1999
 In collaboration with Kunst en Cultuur Overijssel (KCO).

The mandercircles have in part been made possible by the Mondriaan Foundation, Het Fonds BKVB, Herinneringsfonds Vincent van Gogh, Roelvinkfonds, and the Janivo Foundation.



various studies and sketches for the Mandercircles 1993/1994



central axis with the approximately 80 year old juniper bushes



hill with juniper bushes in the centre of the eastern circle

border stone where the eastern circle touches the German border



labyrinth in the centre of the western circle





Topografische dienst Emmen, 13 May 2000 (day of the official unveiling)



the central axis with the juniper bushes, a natural obelisk in a monumental landscape





view of the Mander Circles from the north-east
the line of the German border is marked by the vegetation in the foreground



the central axis in the juniper bushes with glacial grooves in the ground

