

The sculptural work of the artist Nel Bonte (°1986, Roeselare) has a pure, minimal vocabulary. She creates **installations and sculptures** consisting of abstracted visual elements, connected by fragments of our reality. The starting point for each new work comes from her daily experience of life. That may mean a banal, insignificant, unnoticed object that she finds in the city, on the way to somewhere or in her studio, such as a lemon squeezer or a bolt from a machine. It might also be an architectural construction that she has come across on a walk, such as a hut in the woods, a shelter or a sauna.

Perhaps it is a dispenser that catches her eye, for example: a cylinder, tube or container that dispenses a certain quantity of a liquid or material for use or consumption, such as paper, soap or water. For Nel Bonte, the shape of such items is a creative stimulus that inspires her work. She appears to have made the concept of a 'dispenser' something entirely of her own, exploring it until it is completely transformed into a unique sculptural form: GORST.

She transforms every 'objet trouvé' in this way: the object becomes a work of art, the apparently meaningless gains meaning, a detail or fragment becomes its own context or reality. She has various ways of going about this. For instance, she plays with realistic **scale** by shrinking or expanding it. The **choice of material** is also crucial, with the material acting as a skin that helps to determine the content of the sculpture. Last but not least, she searches constantly for a dialogue or confrontation between the sculpture and the viewer in a specific space.

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