

Preface

Between Life and Death: Take Care!

We are all suspended between life and death. The transmission between these two states can be gradual, or abrupt intermissions may occur that emphasize the fragility of life, while underlining the fact that it is inseparable from death. Many masters in the history of art, from Rembrandt, whose *Anatomy Lesson* is engraved in our memories, to Gericault, who portrayed patients in French asylums, as well as many contemporary artists, such as Kawamata, who created a wooden pathway as a link to the 'real' world with the patients of a drug rehab centre, or Ilya and Emilia Kabakov, who equated the mental states of psychiatric patients with searching for angels, related their works to such human conditions, transgressing the usual ways of perceiving and orthodox ways of responding to the world.

SKOR has been creating art projects specifically for health care institutions such as hospitals, psychiatric clinics, nurseries and homes for the elderly since its very beginning. Faced with the changing conditions and regulations concerning health care institutions in the Netherlands since 2006, SKOR has taken up the challenge to find novel ways of creating art works that focus on health care. The idea of creating a new format for art and health care entitled *The Collection* points out the hybrid possibilities of producing and distributing art. As a public art institution, SKOR collaborates with semi-public and private organizations as well as other art institutions to create art works that articulate the sensitive relationship between art and life, normal and abnormal, ordinary and extraordinary states. This collection of work is meant to be shared by various health care institutions, but the plan is also that it is to circulate among different art institutions, museums and exhibitions. Representing a collaborative effort between motivated health care and art institutions, *The Collection* will also provide the art works with 'second lives' for diverse publics and audiences.

N. Fulya Erdemci

Director

SKOR, Foundation for Art and Public Space

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