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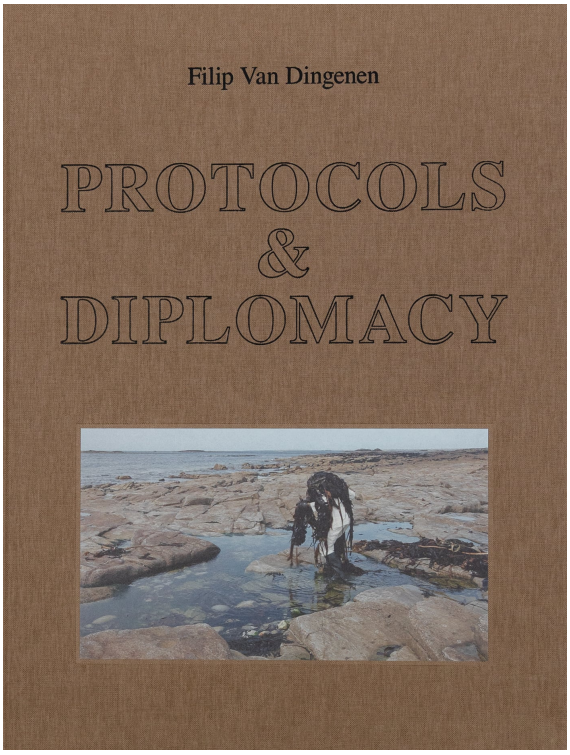

Protocols & Diplomacy - Filip Van Dingenen

For undisciplined practitioners

By (artist) Filip Van Dingenen

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ISBN	9789464002843
Publisher	HOPPER&FUCHS
Binding	Hardback
Territory	USA & Canada
Size	9.65 in x 12.8 in
Pages	244 Pages
Illustrations	484 color, 33 b&w
Price	$55.00

- Reveals Filip's unique practice of artistic alchemy, transforming research, encounters, and cultural histories into richly layered, collaborative art projects
- Explores diplomacy as a creative and critical artistic methodology
- Combines conceptual art, social practice, and political inquiry

Filip Van Dingenen likes to twist thinking and art into projects that become more than just exhibitions — they embody a way of life, an attitude that, much like film, searches for the unknown within the familiar. As Philippe Van Cauteren says: *"Filip Van Dingenen is an alchemist."* An alchemist transforms one substance into another, seeking gold and cures for disease; in essence, they create connections in pursuit of knowledge and truth.

Filip's raw materials are different kinds of accumulated extractions — layers of research, encounters, and experiences that cluster into long-term projects such as 'Nfumu-Ngui', 'Ecole Mondiale', 'Algae Diplomacy', and 'Suskewiet Visions'. As this book, ***Protocols & Diplomacy***, demonstrates, each project forms a generous constellation of events in which collaboration and co-creation are central. Yet, it is Filip Van Dingenen who carefully orchestrates the ceremony of exchange and interaction. His artistic practice focuses on weaving together small and large histories, anthropology and pedagogy, discourse and intuition, loyalty and globality. Van Dingenen seeks ways of thinking and acting that are co-existent rather than oppositional. Through art, he formulates questions, along with possible responses, that open up new spaces for reflection and connection.

Filip Van Dingenen (b. 1975) is a Belgian artist whose practice operates at the intersection of conceptual art, social engagement, and institutional critique. His work often takes the form of collaborative processes, performative situations, and long-term projects that explore systems of negotiation, communication, and collective authorship. Van Dingenen is known for developing artistic frameworks that question established structures of power and knowledge, frequently engaging with participants across different contexts. His projects have been presented in exhibitions, public programs, and institutional settings, including collaborations with organizations such as S.M.A.K. Ghent, Belgium. Through his work, he redefines the role of the artist as facilitator and mediator, emphasizing process over product. ***Protocols & Diplomacy*** encapsulates this approach, offering insight into his ongoing exploration of diplomacy as an expanded artistic field.

Published 10th Nov 2026