

HOE VERTEL IK HET MIJN OUDERS: SANDER COENEN

Regisseur: Lernert & Sander



Have you ever tried to explain to your parents what your job is all about and what your passions are? This is often a hopeless cause – you gradually go your own way, develop your own interests outside the family in which you have grown up, and in many cases, family history, character and muddled relationships also get in the way.

For visual artists this is even more difficult. Within the context of art, it is still fairly apparent for artists to be understood: they have been trained to explain and promote their work through a specific, shared discourse. But this discourse does not help them to connect with their fathers or mothers: dear son or daughter's art is carefully avoided as a topic of conversation (as are religion and politics), in order to keep the peace.

This recognizable theme was Lernert Engelberts' and Sander Plug's inspiration for a series of videos. They recruited several artists who created abstract and rather hermetic work, and placed them in a neutral, grey space together with their father and/or mother – with the artist always, very subtly, seated in a slightly lower chair. The resulting conversations are painfully confrontational, often moving and sometimes hilarious.

In 'How To Explain It To My Parents: Arno Coenen', multimedia artist Arno Coenen is sitting at a table with his father. Together they taste Arno's self-brewed Eurotrash beer; followed by an attempt at a dialogue on how the brewing of beer can also be regarded as art. But ultimately, the conversation mainly tells us a great deal about the father-son relationship.

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