



KEES  
PLAISTER  
RHINO  
POEMS



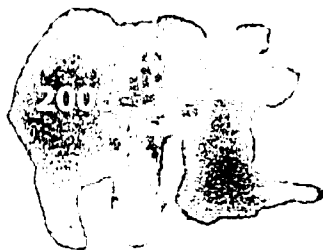
A RHINOCEROS  
IN MY  
GARDEN



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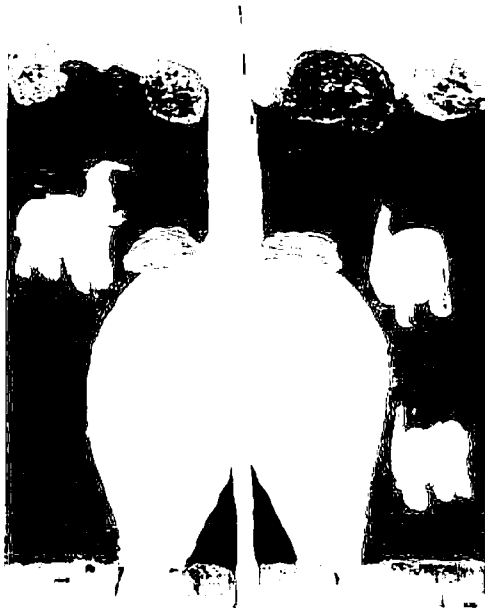


A RHINOCEROS  
IN MY  
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Illustrations by Victor Sachivko

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## EXAMPLE

a young rhino  
stays for years  
with the mother

in those days  
no hanky panky  
with possible fathers

no wonder  
that the males  
if given a chance  
take out of the act  
what they possibly can  
-so to speak-

the endurance they show  
during the act  
combined with other male showing off  
provokes a man's imagination

it creates however  
ridiculous nonsense too  
stories  
about secret aphrodisiac powers  
hidden in the poor rhino's horn

too bad  
for the species





## THE DÜRER RHINO

he looks just good hearted  
his armour seems frightful it is true  
but elegantly decorated it is  
and it fits quite well

however sad he may look  
his friendly character  
appears always in his eyes

his new master  
Dom Manuel the First  
wanted him to fight an elephant  
like they did according to excited stories  
in ancient Rome

when confronted  
with this armoured present  
given by Sultan Mu'afar th - Second  
the elephant  
ran as fast as he could

Durer did not see the rhino in the flesh  
himself  
he was told about it  
in words and pictures

that was enough

his imagination created  
a creature, not quite accurate  
but unforgettable

the little twisted horn  
on the animals shoulders  
still kept centuries later  
inquisitive zoology is busy





## CLARA

when she was a young Indian Rhino  
Clara was given as a present  
to an important representative  
of the Dutch East India's Company  
in Bengal

her youth was quite safe  
and happy there  
but then she was pulled  
into the wide world  
by Captain Douw Mout van der Meer

long months at sea  
and then again  
seventeen years of touring  
shown to the public  
as an exotic curiosity

Douw Mout enjoyed it  
he travelled all over Europe  
with this female celebrity  
at his side

with genuine Dutch commercial spirit  
he made money  
out of the rhino

history doesn't tell  
whether Clara suffered  
anyhow  
she was famously pictured  
by Longhi and others

that something different  
for a rhino





## INCONSOLABLE

stone and metal  
were too strong  
for the rhino's horn  
in Rotterdam Zoo

what's left  
is the base  
and traces of paint  
from the gate

the rhino was not at ease  
at all in the zoo

he couldn't just run nicely  
or trot firmly  
he couldn't dream  
while standing shoulder high in the water

he couldn't walk along the Bengal tiger  
just ignoring him in quiet superiority  
over his helpless feeling  
towards your size

and then on top of all  
you're in the Zoo  
and lose your horn  
it's almost too much

the four-year old boy  
who visited the Zoo  
sensed that well

when he saw the horn missing  
he burst into tears

inconsolable





## IN BETWEEN THE RHINO'S

they stand left  
on the piano

two rhino heads  
elegantly cut out of ebony  
meant to support book  
but in fact  
more partner in family life

the latest information  
about tax- bank accounts  
invitations for openings  
jubilee parties  
birth announcements  
death messages

it's all  
between the rhinos

they should be right in place  
supporting scientific works  
by Osborne Guerin  
Rookmaaker or Clarke

but they fulfil  
their trivial duties  
on the piano  
also very well





## ANAESTHETIZED FOREVER

it took her some time  
but now she was accustomed  
to her housing  
the rhino in Amsterdam Zoo

the men in charge however  
had to make changes again  
re-arranging and building  
as always

they made a temporary wooden fence  
around her place  
she didn't like it

in the beginning  
her unrest only showed  
in more movements  
than she normally made

but once on steam  
she thundered  
her full weight  
through the fence

an anaesthetic shot  
was necessary to calm her down

when the first shot  
seemed to have no effect  
she kept running  
a second was fired  
which appeared to be  
too much

now she is stuffed  
forever  
you can see in her eyes  
that she blames us  
still







## BOŘIVOJ LOST AND FOUND

Borivoj the little woolly rhinoceros  
was playing alone  
for the first time in his life

he had asked for it  
for a long time  
and his mother gave in  
eventually  
you must let them go  
eventually

she however worried  
about all the dangers  
of which her Borivoj  
was unaware  
and she was right

he enjoyed himself  
so much in the snow  
that he didn't notice  
a weak spot

he fell down  
and sunk slowly  
into an oily substance  
resisting made things only worse

30 000 years later Borivoj was discovered  
by excited scientists  
almost fully intact

even his long hairs were sufficiently preserved  
to compare them with those  
of the Sumatran rhino  
it was proved  
they were related





## CHANGE

in three acts  
and four parts  
Loneco wrote  
"Le Rhinocéros"

a fascinating play  
wherein slowly but surely  
the persons change  
into rhinoceroses

it's however a painful experience  
especially for those  
who were still themselves

in any case  
you could recognize the old man  
inside  
by the look in the eyes  
and the afflictive behaviour

perhaps it's not so terrible  
to change into a rhino  
as long as it happens to everyone

the question remains however  
in what kind of rhino the people changed

the main characters in the play  
argued, mainly sitting in a pavement cafe,  
whether it was the African  
or the Asian rhino  
who has two horns

since Petrus Camper  
we know better  
he explained it quite clear  
although he wasn't so sure himself





## MOLAR

the tooth was for 30 000 years  
or more  
lost on the bottom of the sea

the woolly rhinoceros  
in whose lower jaw  
the molar crushed tough grasses  
was probably wandering around  
on the spot where much later  
the Van Hoboken family  
constructed their villa Dijkzigt

by weather and wind and water  
frost and rain  
the tooth was carried  
to the bottom of the North Sea

it was caught and noticed  
in 1986  
by an observant fisherman  
between the Brown Bank  
and the English coast  
about sixty miles west of IJmuiden

a member of the working group  
on Pleistocene mammals  
took care of its preservation

eventually the lower jaw molar  
ended up in my collection  
swapped for a booklet with rhino poem

a poetic exchange it was  
because it's a genuine molar  
showing 'a nice me difosse tte'





## VIOLENCE

the black rhino is known  
as aggressive  
what seems to be caused  
by his short sightedness

it's an acceptable explanation  
for humans that is

the beast is not really vicious

however strong impression  
Johnny Weismuller made  
as Tarzan  
in disabling a very militant rhino  
endangering his own skin  
of course

that was pure cinematic trick  
I later realized

in James and the giant peach  
by Roald Dahl  
James' parents were eaten by a rhino  
on the street in bright daylight

whether it was by a black rhino  
or not  
nobody would believe it





## DREAM

our backyard  
measured about  
fifty square meters

there he walked peacefully around  
a gentle little animal  
a dwarfed sub-species  
of the Sumatran rhino

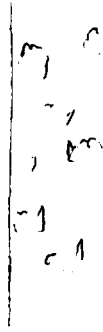
you could caress him  
or pamper him otherwise  
he obviously felt at home  
near the rhino lover

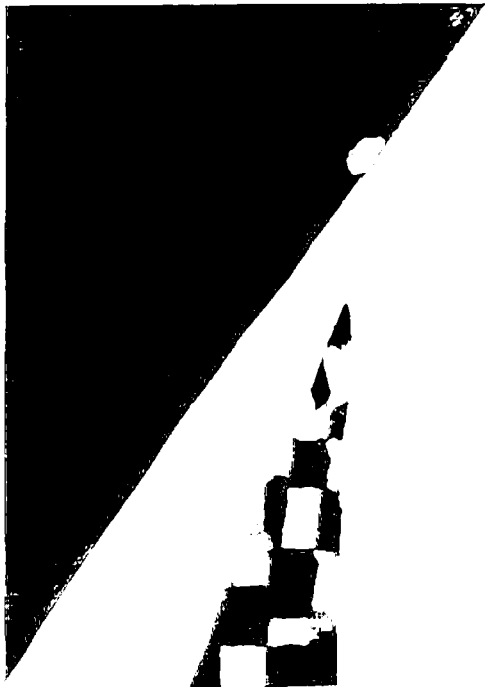
no problem there

enough to eat and drink  
shadowy places  
and in the middle of the garden  
a muddy pool  
small but quite suitable  
to roll over well pleased  
without worries

coming home from work  
my first steps were always directed  
to little rhino  
he greeted me  
with suitable happy noises

over the years  
he stayed small





## NIKY THE COLOURFUL RHINO

he was living in a thought  
for a long time already

nobody saw him  
but some were aware of his promising existence

slowly he grew  
in the sculptress' mind

he was meant to be beautiful  
joyful  
and useful  
at the same time

she shaped him out of strong materials  
he became concrete and robust  
firm on his feet and still modest  
in spite of his size

the finishing touch made him shine  
colourful mosaic reflecting the light  
on one side black, white and grey  
exciting shades  
the other side filled with spots of colour  
little mirrors grouped together to a singular skin

in his back legs he had a small flight of stairs  
leading to a hole inside and to a little cave  
perfect for children to play in

when he was put on the spot  
the children celebrated his birth with light and music

the next day, very early in the morning  
one of them, a small boy, returned  
he climbed inside and outside, he walked around  
he tenderly touched the shiny rhino  
wherever he could reach

he took possession  
of his own public rhino  
who was moved by so much affection  
the drops of dew on his mosaic skin  
started to twinkle





## DISPLACED

the white rhino lived in a dangerous area  
many of his fellow animals  
were already shot by poachers  
so he was only one of a few  
that survived

the government decided  
to bring the remaining ones  
to a protected nature reserve  
and they went to catch the beasts

the rhino felt disturbed  
a noisy big bird in the sky  
seemed to follow him  
so he ran and tried to hide  
but the bushes did not help very much

then another thing moved fast towards him  
striped like his friends the zebras  
but different  
bigger, louder and with people in it

he got more and more frightened  
and tried to escape  
it didn't work  
he felt a sharp object in his skin  
that made him dizzy and dizzy

just before he lost consciousness  
he saw some men around him

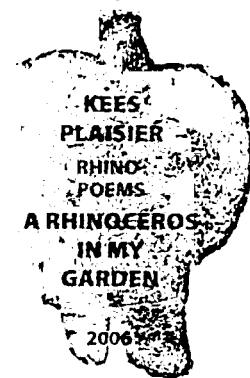
he woke up in a wooden cage  
and was allowed to go

luckily he found a nice pool  
and even some fellow rhino

even after he had set his demarcation lines  
to feel himself master of his domain  
it took him months  
to get adjusted



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PLAISIER  
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POEMS  
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Illustrations by Victor Sachivko  
In press by Anika Vologda, Russia  
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**VICTOR SACHIVKO**

Was born in March of 1970 in the city of Atkarsk (Russia). He studied in Krasnoyarsk at the local Academy of Architecture. He worked as an architect, was engaged in book design and illustration. He was a teacher at the Academy for architecture. He is professionally engaged in art design, architecture design, painting, drawing, video, he is author of artistic projects, conducted workshops. He participated in art exhibitions since 1997, in Russia and in international projects.

Personal exhibitions in Krasnoyarsk: 1993, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2008, 2009. Exhibitions in France, in Holland, in Berlin in the years 2002 till 2004.

He took part in the European competition of painting LEX/MAR - EUROPEAN ART PRIZE 2004. Ten European artists became finalists of prestigious competition, an unique all-European project in the field of painting.

His painting "Wooden water" was exhibited at an exposition in Trondheim (Norway).