

TIMELINE

See separate PDFs for the *History, Timeline, PRO Conferences*
PRO Magazine, PRO Drawing Collection, PRO Exhibitions, Publications,
Collaborative Projects, Press, Picture Book

1985

June First discussions about the necessity to initiate a new magazine about constructive art and architecture
August 1st PRO Newsletter, international distribution.

09 85 – 06 86 Dutch artist Fré Ilgen and his wife Jacqueline Ilgen undertook several trips to Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland to meet with constructive artists, gallerists and other persons with contacts in East and Central Europe, USA, Canada, to research possible interest in setting up an organization for promoting constructive art and architecture. In each of these countries they discovered very interesting individuals or small informal groups of artists that often felt isolated, only a few with sufficient exposure on the art market, small minorities on an international scale. It seemed the right moment in time to connect a line between these dots on the map.

1986

May 2nd PRO Newsletter with contributions by Hartmut Böhm (Germany), Shizuko Yoshikawa (Japan/Switzerland), Dirk Verhaegen (Belgium);
October 16th **The Foundation PRO – pro art and architecture is formally established.**¹
Nov-Dec *Konkrete Multiples*, exhibition in Galerie De Sluis, Leidschendam, and Galerie L’Idee, Zoetermeer, both in the Netherlands, courtesy of the Foundation PRO, with catalogue;
Also exhibited at Galerie St. Johann, Saarbrücken, Germany.
December 3rd PRO Newsletter – the foundation declaration, 1250 copies.

1987

1st PRO Conference’87 Dordrecht, the Netherlands

28th February - 1st March 1987, auditorium Dordrechts Museum

Attendance: about 175 artists, art historians, curators from Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Poland.

Première of the **PRO Drawing Collection**, exhibited at the home and studio of Fré & Jacqueline Ilgen; A two-day program with talks, organized lunches, per bus to a dinner at *Café De Unie*, the reconstruction of the legendary café designed by architect J.J.P. Oud (1925, part of *De Stijl* group with Piet Mondriaan, Van Doesburg, Rietveld), Rotterdam. Press coverage including a full page interview with the leading Dutch newspaper *Algemeen Dagblad*, articles in *De Volkskrant* and *Financieel Dagblad*.

Catalogue 1st PRO Conference, including Fré Ilgen *Constructivism The Real Prologue*, the founding speech, profiles and pictures of the speakers Leonardo Mosso (Italy), Joost Baljeu (NL), Johannes Peter Hölzinger (Germany), Sigurd Rompza (Germany), Rainer Bullhorst (NL), Dr. Dieter Bogner (Austria), Prof. Andrzej Turowski (Poland), full page reproductions of all works in the PRO Drawing Collection;

PRO-NR.1 magazine, June 1987

17 – 22 06 PRO Magazine booth, ART Basel, Switzerland

PRO-NR.2 magazine, October 1987

09 – 14 11 visit to Poland, Fré Ilgen invited by Prof. Ryszard Winiarski as guest-teacher, Akademii Sztuk Pięknych, Warsaw, Poland;

¹ In the Netherlands, it was legal to start a foundation as single persons (Fré Ilgen and Jacqueline Ilgen), even without any basic capital. At that time the Cultural Department of the City of Dordrecht stimulated such artist’s initiatives and financed the notary to legally register the Foundation PRO – pro art and architecture. The word “PRO” was chosen as the shortest and internationally understandable notion that represents a positive ambition.

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Meeting with Prof. Ryszard Stanislawski, Director of the Muzeum w Lodzi at Lodz, discussing potential future collaborative projects.

29 11 – 29 12 exhibition **1000 cm³ - international exhibition of geometrical miniatures**, involving more than 100 artists from Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Great Britain, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Korea, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, USA, Venezuela; at Galerie DeSluis, Leidschendam, the Netherlands; this exhibition was also presented at **ART Basel 19'88**, and later was exhibited by the **Wilhelm-Hack-Museum**, Ludwigshafen, Germany; with a cube-sized designed catalogue;

02 + 03 12 courtesy of artist Dré Devens: Studium Generale *Constructive Art*, Royal University Limburg RUL, Maastricht, the Netherlands;
Involving speakers Jürgen Blum-Kwiatkovsky (Poland/Germany), Dr. Matthias Bleyl (Germany), Fré Ilgen (the Netherlands); exhibition of the **PRO Drawing Collection** and an installation by Jürgen Blum-Kwiatkovski at Perroengalerie, Maastricht, the Netherlands; PRO poster-collection at the library of the RUL.

1988

Jan. publication *Report on the Activities 1986-1988*, Foundation PRO
PRO-NR.3 magazine, March 1988

27 01 Fré Ilgen, *On Constructivism and Space/Time*, part of lecture-series *Ideas Behind Shapes*, Gerrit Rietveld Fine Art Academy, Amsterdam, the Netherlands (other lecturers Charles Jencks, Umberto Barbieri) organized by humanist philosopher Prof. Fons Elders;

5-14 03 Exhibition *Skónczonosc*, Installations by Jürgen Blum-Kwiatkovski + Fré Ilgen, Galeria Rekwizytornia Teatr Współczesny, Wroclaw, Poland, with catalogue.
PRO-NR.4 magazine, July 1988

April/May *3rd Triennale of Drawings*, Wroclaw, Poland; on request of the organizers of this event, the Foundation PRO proposed c35 artists, using the information from the PRO Archive.

June *4th PRO Newsletter*, announcing 2nd PRO Conference'88;

17 – 22 06 *PRO Magazine booth*, ART Basel, Switzerland

23, 24, 25 07 **2nd PRO-Conference'88, Fulda, Germany, Null-Dimension**

A collaborative project with Jürgen Blum-Kwiatkovski and IDEA e.V.

Location: car garage transformed for the occasion into a conference hall

Attendance: about 300 artists, art historians, curators from Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, Korea, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Poland.

23 07 – 30 12 **Null-Dimension**, large international exhibition with 164 artists, each 3 works, Galerie New Space, Fulda, Germany;

Catalogue *Null-Dimension*, published by Galerie New Space, Fulda, Germany, in collaboration with IDEA e.V. Fulda and Foundation PRO, including text by the Mayor of Fulda, introduction by Dr. Jochen Schulz of IDEA e.V., Fré Ilgen of the Foundation Pro and Jürgen Blum-Kwiatkovski of the Galerie New Space. Contains pictures of all exhibited artworks;

06 – 25 10 **Charles Biederman – European Tour**, involving receptions for, lectures by and discussions with American artist Charles Biederman at Dordrechts Museum (NL), Studio Maury, Brussels (B), musée d'Art Cholet (France), Musée Grenoble (France), Zürich (Switzerland), Kunststation Kleinsassen-Fulda (Germany), Wilhelm-Hack Museum Ludwigshafen (Germany); see PDF *Picture Book*;

December **PRO - Nr.5 magazine**, December 1988 – January 89;

1989

26 02 – 14 04 Exhibition "A New Spatiality? 4 generations, 4 opinions" with Fré Ilgen, Michael Kidner, Leonardo Mosso, Sigurd Rompza; incl **catalogue** published by the PRO Foundation; exhibited at Galerie De Sluis, Leidschendam, the Netherlands; simultaneous to the gallery exhibition a suspended sculpture by Mosso was installed in a local church; this exhibition was also shown at Gallery St.Johann, Saarbrücken, Germany and Gallery Dr. István Schlégl, Zurich, Switzerland;

21 – 26 04 *PRO Magazine booth*, ART Frankfurt, Germany;

11 – 16 05 *PRO Magazine booth*, Chicago International Art Exposition, Navy Pier, Chicago, USA;

Fré and Jacqueline Ilgen visit Charles Biederman in his home and studio, Red Wing, Minnesota, USA;

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- June Fré Ilgen records a first video in the studios of Biederman; a low-res recording of which a part is lost; start collaboration with B4 Publishing, London, Great Britain, advising them on artists for Blank Page, their series of limited edition books with screen prints;
- July *5th PRO Newsletter*, announcing 3rd PRO Conference'89;
- 17 – 22 06 *PRO Magazine booth*, ART Basel, Switzerland
- September *6th PRO Newsletter*, programme 3rd PRO Conference'89;
- 29 09 – 02 10 **3rd PRO-Conference'89 Rotterdam-Vlissingen-Dordrecht, Constructivism: Man versus Environment, International Major Event Concerning Contemporary Constructivism**, World Trade Center Rotterdam, the Netherlands;
- 29 09 - 01 10 the World Trade Center Rotterdam, city of Rotterdam, the Netherlands
- 02 10 **Symposium 1989 Vlissingen Konstruktivisme, Kunst, Architectuur**, Hotel Britannia and Watertower, City of Vlissingen (Flushing), the Netherlands (part of 3rd PRO Conference'89), a collaboration of the Culturele Raad Vlissingen with the Foundation PRO; by bus all participants in the Rotterdam conference joined this symposium;
- # *Tape, Licht, Verf, constructive 2D-3D, a choice*, Watertower Vlissingen/Oost-Souburg
- # *Spuikom Models* – 14 models of an international selection of artists and architects, Galerie Bellamy, Vlissingen;
- # *Spuikom Sculpture '89* by Italian artist/architect Leonardo Mosso, Vlissingen, the Netherlands;
- This sculpture was realized H8 x L25 x W25 meters consisting of aluminum tubes;
- Attendance: about 200 artists, architects, urban designers, politicians, art historians, curators from Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, Korea, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Poland, Russia, USA.
- Exhibitions:
- # *Constructivism vs. The Computer*, Galerie FARO + Main Hall WTC Rotterdam;
- # the **PRO Drawing Collection**, main hall, WTC Rotterdam;
- # *8 Contemporary Constructive Environmental Installations* by artists in the galleries Tussenwater, Paradise Regained, Kunst+, GALERIE, Dionysus and the CBK (Municipal Center for Fine Art), Rotterdam;
- Catalogue 3rd PRO Conference**, containing information on all speakers and all exhibitions;
- A lot of publicity through interviews and otherwise was realized (see PDF Press), including a special edition in the *Rotterdams Nieuwsblad*, consisting of 4 full pages, including offering a special print by Ernest Edmonds for the newspaper's readers, the total edition of 130.000 was distributed door to door in a selected part of the city of Rotterdam;
- Catalogue Symposium 1989 Vlissingen Konstruktivisme, Kunst, Architectuur**;
- panel discussion Fré Ilgen, Foundation PRO, in "Die Explosion des schwarzen Quadrats - Realität und Utopie der rationalen Kunst", Gesellschaft für Kunst und Gestaltung e.V., Bonner Kunstwochen, Bonn, Germany;
- 1990**
- PRO-NR.6 magazine**, February 1990
- 11 – 16 05 *PRO Magazine booth*, Chicago International Art Exposition, Navy Pier, Chicago, USA
- 13 – 18 06 *PRO Magazine booth*, ART Basel, Switzerland
- July *7th PRO Newsletter*, announcing Universal Progression, organized by USSR Architects' Union with the PRO Foundation.
- 27th + 28th July **4th PRO-Conference'90, Universal Progression, Moscow, Russia**
- USSR Architects' Union, Dom Architektura, Moscow
- Attendance: about 100 artists, art historians, curators from Austria, Belgium, Germany, Great Britain, Japan, the Netherlands, Russia.
- 22 07 – 20 08 Exhibition **Universal Progression**, Central Exhibition Hall Manege, Moscow, Russia.
- PRO-NR.7 magazine**, December 1990
- 1991**
- 20th January **Uni-Form or Human Form?, El Lissitzky Symposium**, organized by Municipal Van Abbe Museum, Academy Industrial Design Eindhoven and realized by the PRO Foundation;
- lecture Fré Ilgen, Foundation PRO, "From Constructivism to Extensionalism", Museum Staatliche Galerie St. Moritzburg, Halle, Germany; courtesy Dr. Kai-Uwe Hemken;

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- 20th April *Ethics in Industrial Design?*, symposium Studium Generale, organized by Fré Ilgen for the AIVE, inauguration newly designed auditorium AIVE, Eindhoven, the Netherlands;
Fré Ilgen, Foundation PRO, panellist in discussion “Chaos Theory vs. Art”, Gesellschaft für Kunst und Gestaltung Bonn, Germany
- July Fré Ilgen records video interviews with Charles Biederman in Biederman’s house and studios, Red Wing, Minnesota; these he edited on 3 DVDs which Ilgen donated to the WAM Minneapolis and Guggenheim, MoMA, Whitney, MET New York, and the Hirshhorn, Washington DC, leading museums in the USA that own works by Biederman; these are the only existing videos with and about Charles Biederman.
- 1992** **PRO-NR.8 magazine**, February 1992
- 27 – 31 03 *PRO Magazine booth*, ART Frankfurt, Germany
- 14 – 18 05 *PRO Magazine booth*, Chicago International Art Exposition, USA
- 17 – 22 06 *PRO Magazine booth*, ART Basel, Switzerland
- lecture Fré Ilgen, Foundation PRO, “*Extensionalism and Twistor Space*”, international conference “Creativity & Cognition”, Loughborough University of Technology, Leicestershire, UK; published in 1995 in magazine LEONARDO, Volume 28 Number 3, MIT Press, USA;
- essay Fré Ilgen, Foundation PRO, “*L’Interaction Dynamique Equivalente vue en Concept de l’Etre*”, in catalogue Jean-Pierre Maury, Galerie Emile Verhaeren, Knokke, Belgium;
- lecture Fré Ilgen, Foundation PRO, “*Extensionalism and Twistor Space*”, international conference “*Art and Mathematics*”, State University of Albany, NY, USA;
- lecture Fré Ilgen, Foundation PRO, “The Extended Self: On the Self, the Object, Space”, international symposium Vilém Flusser Network, Eldorado, Antwerpen, Belgium;
- 1993** **PRO-NR.9 magazine**, March 1993
- Aspects de la Mouvance Construite Internationale***, extensive group exhibition in the Koninklijk Museum voor Schone Kunsten/ICC, Palais Royal, Antwerpen, Belgium; a collaboration of Mésures- A.I., the Foundation PRO and the KMS/ICC.
- 13 03 – 04 ***Aspects de la Mouvance Construite Internationale***, musée de Verviers, Belgium; Les Amis des Musees de Verviers, Fondation PRO and MÉSURES Art International, Belgium;
- Catalogue containing introduction Director of the BBL bank, the sponsor, Dr. Christian Ernotte of the Friends of the musée Verviers, Jean-Pierre Maury, Bernard Fauchille of the musée Cholet; specific information on: Exhibition I, *Mésures A.I. et Ses Amis* introduced by Jean-Pierre Maury, and Exhibition II, *PRO Verviers* introduced by Fré Ilgen, including essay *Je Suis Un Construit Libre (I am a Free Construct, quote after Sci-Fi author J.Bayley)*, editors of constructive art B4 Publishing (Great Britain), Beau-House (Belgium), Edition Cyan (Belgium), Atelier-Editions Fanal (Switzerland), Edition Head&Legs (Belgium), Edition& Galerie Hoffmann (Germany) Galerie & Editions Lahumière (France), Galerie&Editions Quadri (Belgium), Fausta Squatriti Editore (Italy), a.s.b.i. Tandem (Belgium), Constructivist Forum (Great Britain), I.C.S.A.C. (Belgium), Mésures art international (Belgium), Fondation PRO (the Netherlands);
- Publication of limited edition screen print of poster for the exhibitions at the musée Verviers, design by Fré Ilgen, printed by Heads&Legs.
- Editions of constructive art***, editeurs and magazines at the Centre de la Gravure et de L’Image Imprimee, La Louvière, Belgium.
- 13 – 15 04 lecture Fré Ilgen, Foundation PRO, at Art and Science, Intersections and Boundaries, Creativity & Cognition, An International Symposium, Loughborough University, Great Britain
- lecture Fré Ilgen, Foundation PRO, “*The Meshwork of Reality - The Multidimensional Net as Visual Argument of the Interrelation between the Self, Space, Time and Reality*”, Museum Badischer Kunstverein, Karlsruhe, Germany (in context to an exhibition on Leonardo Mosso);
- 24 – 28 04 *PRO Magazine booth*, ART Frankfurt, Germany;
- 16 – 21 06 *PRO Magazine booth*, ART Basel, Switzerland

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lecture Fré Ilgen, Foundation PRO, “*The Real Notion of Interactivity in Design*”, international conference “*Design: Pleasure or Responsibility?*”, UIAH University Helsinki, Finland;

lecture Fré Ilgen, Foundation PRO, “*The Extended Self - The Object, Space and Reality Perception - On the meaning of visual argumentation*”, Design Centre Stuttgart, Germany (courtesy Galerie Beatrix Wilhelm);

lecture Fré Ilgen, Foundation PRO, “*Our Reality Perception on the Edge of Chaos - Information – Knowledge Acknowledgement*”, Kulturtage Art Project Dreieich, Germany;

lecture Fré Ilgen, Foundation PRO, “*The Synchronizing Self*”, international conference “*Katachi u Symmetry*”, Institute for Applied Physics, Tsukuba University, Japan; published in 1996 in book “*Katachi u Symmetry*”, Springer Verlag Tokyo, Japan;

7 – 11 06 lecture Fré Ilgen, Foundation PRO, at Art and Mathematics Conference AM93, University of Albany, SUNY Albany, New York, USA;

25 – 27 10 essay Fré Ilgen, Foundation PRO, “*Extensionalism: A Reformulation of Utopian Ideas*”, Slovenske University, Bratislava, Slovakia; published in ARS issue 2-3, Journal of the Institute of Art of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, Slovakia;

1995

lecture Fré Ilgen, Foundation PRO, “*The Meshwork of Reality - The Multidimensional Net as Visual Argument of the Interrelation between the Self, Space, Time and Reality*”, Municipal Cultural Council of the City of Vlissingen, the Netherlands (in context to exhibition of Leonardo Mosso);

Fré Ilgen, Foundation PRO, curates the exhibition *PRO-Poster Experiment* (artists selected by the Foundation PRO created posters on which they show their creative process) and essay “*Structures on the Edge of Chaos*”, Third Interdisciplinary Symmetry Congress, ISIS Symmetry Group, Old Town Alexandria, Washington DC, USA;

lecture Fré Ilgen, Foundation PRO, “*Gestaltung als Mittel zwischen Denken und Handeln*” (“*Design as medium between thinking and acting*”), School for Engineers HTL Chur, Switzerland;

1996

lecture Fré Ilgen, Foundation PRO, “*Virtual in Reality - Real in Virtuality*” + “*The Process of Self - Argumentation in the Projective Field - Design as Connection between Thinking and Acting*”, symposium “*Creativity & Cognition 2*”, Loughborough University of Technology and Loughborough College of Art and Design, Loughborough, UK; published in book “*C & C 2*”, Loughborough University of Technology, UK;

lecture Fré Ilgen, Foundation PRO, “*Weniger vollkommen zu handeln als man eigentlich gekonnt hätte, heißt unvollkommen handeln*” (*Leibniz*) - *Über Natur, Raum und Ideal*”, Kunstverein Frankfurt, Germany (courtesy Galerie Lüpke);

1998

Fré Ilgen, Foundation PRO, proposed artists for the special project *Gommisti* of Isabelle Quiton and Matthew Tyson, Edition Imprints, France;

1999

Fré Ilgen, Foundation PRO, foreign curator for the international exhibition *Science in the Arts – Arts in the Sciences*, **UNESCO-ICSU World Congress** on Science, Budapest, Hungary.

2004

ART? No Thing! - Analogies between art, science and philosophy

theory book by Fré Ilgen, edited by Megan Craig, 432 pages, 50 full color reproductions, 20 black/white pictures. Published in English by PRO Foundation, the Netherlands, 2004, ISBN 9 0901 8543

2012

formal dissolution of the Foundation PRO – pro art and architecture.

Fré Ilgen’s quest for more understanding of **art, science and well-being** continues in discussions in other formats (like the *Checkpoint Ilgen Series* in Berlin, Germany), books, lectures, essays, see

www.freilgen.de

CONCLUSION

The intense years of setting up the Foundation PRO and meeting so many people were important formative years for Fré Ilgen’s own artistic work, thoughts and understanding of art. The many experiences and encounters motivated his own quest for finding answers to the eternal question *why do humans need art?*

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Results are his other theory books: *Artist? The Hypothesis of Bodiness* and *The Viewer? The Actual Purpose of Art*, leading Ilgen to conclude that in art it is hardly important to know the narrative of the artwork, it is less important to understand artistic innovation of the artwork itself and more important to understand what an artist offers visually to another person that can contribute to that person's personal well-being.

As to our eyes and brain there is no difference between abstraction and figuration, but there *is* a consequence of the visual appearance chosen by the artist, Ilgen concluded to continue working abstract *as well as* exploring figuration.