



THE DUTCH DOLMEN

In the eastern Dutch town of Boxmeer, the Van Paridon company was approaching the twenty-fifth anniversary of its foundation. They decided to mark the auspicious occasion with a sculpture and, having seen SOLON'S LAW at the police station, telephoned Galerie Husstege and requested a copy. On being directed to Rowan in Ireland they soon realised that his work is not delivered on a production line and that they would need to commission a completely new piece.

Leni Van Paridon describes the process, five years down the line, with affection. Rowan arrived at the site and made meticulous measurements of the available space in the entrance hall of the factory's offices – worried about the low ceiling. He returned bearing a large, machined chunk of Ireland in the form of two granite monoliths with two polished sides and two 'unfinished' sides. Two men and a woman, representing the founding partners of Van Paridon, lift the weighty upper stone effortlessly. Twenty-five notches, representing the age of the company, were chiselled into the granite that grows almost organically out of the granite-finish linoleum floor. Leni regards THE DUTCH DOLMEN as a great success as its powerful presence draws admiring glances and comments from customers as they enter the building.



THE DUTCH DOLMEN, 2001,
220cm, bronze and granite,
individual item, Boxmeer, Holland.



▮▮ I TRY TO
INVESTIGATE THE
SITE IN TERMS OF
ITS POTENTIAL FOR
INTERFACING SOME
MATERIAL SO THAT
IF I CLOSE MY EYES I
CAN WALK THE
LAND. ▮▮

RICHARD SERRA