



Treetents 1998

Dré Wapenaar (Dutch, born 1961)

Steel, canvas, and plywood, 15 x 9' (400 x 300 cm) diam.

Manufacturer: Dré Wapenaar, The Netherlands (2005)

Originally designed for England's Road Alert Group—a group of activists who oppose the destruction of forests in order to build highways—the Treetents were meant to provide comfortable shelter for conservationists who were protecting the trees from being cut down, by allowing them to keep vigil among the branches of the targeted trees. The project was never realized, and these tents were finally sold to the Hertshoorn camping site in the Netherlands,

where they are rented five months a year. They can accommodate two adults and two children each.

The artist, Dré Wapenaar, explains that the tear shape of the Treetents "naturally developed itself, when I hung a circular platform with a rope on the side of a tree. My inspiration for the shape was not the dewdrop. Form followed function." From the protection of trees from chain saws to the creation of a calm and friendly environment that makes people feel secure and intimate with nature and among themselves, Wapenaar's tents promote interaction among individuals and are a reflection on the very idea of a home. —P. J.