



HANS VANDEKERCKHOVE

The Solo Project, Basel

June 18 - 22, 2014

Booth C2

°1957, Kortrijk (BE). Lives and works in Ghent (BE)

Hans Vandekerckhove stands alone in contemporary painting, his art being a result of introspective concentration and evolution rather than a reaction on existing styles or trends. The central element or motivation in the work of this artist is to contemplate things in order to transform an everyday reality into a poetic world of motionless beauty. This transformation turns objects into phenomenon, and persons into beings. In this quest for clarity and mystery the painter has found inspiration in gardens and landscapes all over Europe. He often transposes landscapes into an almost virtual setting, away from past or present. These works are all about imagination and sub consciousness, but they are often based on observations made during walks or during secluded stays. His most recent paintings examine the relation between nature and culture.

Hans Vandekerckhove primarily paints spaces as retreats. Sometimes the observer can recognize one or more figures – possibly the artist himself, since he takes as much pleasure in gracing his own paintings, as he does walking through the open countryside. Vandekerckhove's pictorial compositions are based on the impressions he gains on these walks. In contrast to photography, which captures a fleeting moment in time or mediates a specific atmosphere, Vandekerckhove is seeking in his work to conjure a magical world – a realm, in which painting rests in the conviction that something magical is concealed within our world: the attest to this yearning for the paradisiacal, primordial state which he detects in landscapes and architecture.

Hans Vandekerckhove participated in important group exhibitions including Made in Belgium, 1987, Musée d' Art Moderne Liège; Modernism in Painting, 1991 PMMK Ostend; Belgium and Contemporary Art, 2000, CBE Frankfurt; The Gardens of Granada, 2002 PMMK Ostend; Perspectives on Belgian Art, 2008 MKM Museum Duisburg; PPP Public Private Paintings, 2010, Muzee Ostend.

Important solo shows include The Association MHK Gent, 1990; A Collector of Vanished Moments, 2002 Elzenveld Antwerp; Stalking Jerome, 2004 PMMK Ostend; My head is my only home, 2007 SMAK Gent; La Mirada ciega, 2007, Fundacion C. Amberes Madrid; Picture Palace, 2009, Zebrastraat Ghent.

His works are included in the collections of Mercator, Belgian Embassy Tokyo, New York Belgian Residence, Brussels International Airport, C & A Services Brussels, Central Bank of Europe (GE), Belfius Bank, Flemish Parliament, Fortis Bank, Katoennatie, Museum Minden (GE), Muzee Ostend, Museum Kortrijk, Nestle (GE), National Bank of Belgium, Nord Stern Cologne (GE), University of Antwerp, East and West Flanders Province, SMAK Ghent, Liedts-Meesen Foundation Ghent and in numerous private collections.

www.hansvandekerckhove.be

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