

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GERY DE SMET SOLO EXHIBITION

HIDDEN SIGNS

Venue: HRD Fine Art
(494-1 Kamigoryo-tatemachi, Kamigyo-ku, Kyoto)

Date: April 1 - May 13, 2023

Hours: **Thu: 11:00am - 3:00pm**
Fri & Sat: 11:00am - 7:00pm

Closed: Sun-Wed (available for viewing by appointment)

HRD Fine Art is delighted to announce the opening of a solo exhibition of Belgian artist Gery De Smet, titled “Hidden Signs,” which will go on display from April 1st through May 13th, 2023 at HRD Fine Art. This will be the Gent-based, broadly talented artist's second solo exhibition in Japan.

Gery De Smet, who is actively engaged in exhibitions and projects throughout Europe, is working around the themes of identity, immigration, nationality, and power. Particularly, his interest lies in “invented tradition.” Gery De Smet researches the identity of people and demasks the constructions behind it.

In his first solo exhibition at HRD Fine Art in 2021, titled “Causality Unintended,” De Smet presented his “photographic” works using pornographic photos cut out from old magazines and the Rune alphabets from ancient Europe, exposing the power and the deceptivity of images. In this exhibition, “Hidden Signs,” however, his focus is painting.

Many of De Smet's paintings are based on landscape photographs. Dynamic brushstrokes of acrylic paints and abstract processing of the subjects beget simple but fluid composition, and the resulting paintings carry poesy, which is not unlike traditional Oriental paintings. However, in his paintings, De Smet hides scores of symbolism and allusions related to history and tradition, so that various interpretations are possible. Here again, De Smet explores the “multifacetedness of images,” which is what the artist has always been questioning regardless of disciplines and media.

This exhibition includes medium-sized canvases, small square-shaped paintings, as well as works on postcard-sized paper, showcasing his wide repertoire of techniques, while slowly revealing the critical consciousness underpinning all of his creation.

[ARTIST'S STATEMENT]

My work often deals with the necessity and misuse of myths, and in doing so, nature and its symbolism is not far away. Furthermore, it asks questions about the relativity, interchangeability and appropriation of history. A quest that could be described as an exploration of invented tradition.

If you take your time, you will discover the affinities between all facets of my work. Often it is not what you see, but it has multiple meanings.

Gery De Smet

[ARTWORKS]



Parallel Lives

acrylic on canvas 50x65cm 2019



The Departure

acrylic on canvas 50x60cm 2019



Wedemaand 1996

acrylic on canvas 25.4x25.4cm 1996



Bloeimaand 2006

acrylic on canvas 25.4x25.4cm 2006

[ARTIST'S BIOGRAPHY]

Gery De Smet

1961 Born in Antwerp, Belgium
 1984-1988 KASK (The Royal Academy of Fine Arts), Ghent
 1988-1993 HISK (Higher Institute for Fine Arts), Antwerp
 Lives and works in Ghent, Belgium

Selected Solo Exhibitions

1986 *Oorlogsbodems*, Le Beau Bruxel, Brussels
 1987 Stedelijk Museum voor Schone Kunsten, Oostende
 1990 *Studie der ideologieën*, Netwerk Galerij, Aalst
 1991 *Beeldengalerij*, Higher Institute for Fine Arts, Antwerp
 1992 *Schilderijen*, Dorp & Dal, Ghent
 1993 *Kultuurkamer*, Galerie Hugo Minnen, Antwerp
 CIAP, Hasselt
 1994 *Je suys celluy au cueur vestu de noir*, Watertoren CHK, Vlissingen, the Netherlands
 1996 *AVE*, Osterwalder's Art Office, Hamburg, Germany
Signatures, Sint-Lucaspassage, Antwerp
 1997 *Kom, volg mij*, Van Laere Contemporary Art, Antwerp
My point of view, The George Rodger Gallery, Maidstone, UK
 1998 *Ways of living*, Osterwalder's Art Office, Hamburg, Germany
 1999 *Toewijding*, Campo-Santo, Sint-Amandsberg
 2000 *Lichtmis*, Osterwalder's Art Office, Hamburg, Germany
Voor uw eigen goed, RUG - Binnentuin Faculteit van Letteren en Wijsbegeerte, Ghent
 2001 *Wijzen van wonen*, Galerie Mercator, Antwerp
 2003 *Leeuwenhart: de wil van God*, MDL, Museum van Deinze en de Leiestreek, Deinze
 2004 *Kleine landeigendom*, Zwart Huis, Knokke
Mokum en wijde omgeving, Steendrukkerij Amsterdam, Amsterdam
 2007 *Slapende cellen/Sleeping cells*, Steendrukkerij Amsterdam, Amsterdam
 2009 *Today all circuits are closed*, Steendrukkerij Amsterdam, Amsterdam
 2010 *See something? Say something!*, American University Museum at the Katzen Center in Washington DC, US
 2011 *See something? Say something!*, Museum of Modern Art Artetage, Vladivostok, Russia
 2013 *Paardenkracht*, PAK, Gistel
 2015 *De stand der zonnen*, Villa de Olmen, Wieze
 2016 *Finish a start!*, The Black Wall, Brussels
Offerfeest, Emergent, Veurne
 2017 *Avonden in Avondland*, Bruthaus, Waregem
 2021 *Causality Unintended*, HRD Fine

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 1997 *Reality revisited - De Herinnering als verlangen*, Sala Montcada, Fundacio la Caixa, Barcelona
Collection II, Osterwalders Art Office, Hamburg, Germany
- 1998 *Vlaanderen - Moskou*, Cultureel Centrum Berchem, Antwerp
- 2000 *Ieder z'n voetbal. Het voetbal in de beeldende kunst 1900-2000*, Kunsthal Rotterdam, Rotterdam, the Netherlands
Devotie, W139, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Tremendum et fascinosum. Representaties van extreem-rechts (1980-2000), Cultureel Centrum Berchem, Antwerp
- 2001 *Het versluierd beeld*, Begijnhof, Hasselt
Painting - Show, M&M Gallery, Bornem
Belgisch ATELIER Belge, Passage 44, Brussel
- 2002 *Summer in the city*, Osterwalders Art Office, Hamburg, Germany
De hofvijver in poëzie en beeld, Brediushuis, Den Haag, the Netherlands
- 2004 *Tong 2*, Tongerlohuys, Roosendaal, the Netherlands
Memory Sticks, Galerie Reuten, Amsterdam
- 2005 *Emilie Fresco*, Klooster, Mechelen
- 2006 *Spotlights*, Cultureel Centrum Hasselt
In kaart gebracht, Stedelijk Museum, Aalst
Stadsgezichten, Erfgoedcentrum Lamot, Mechelen
- 2007 *Ver van Eden/Loin de l'Eden*, Hondshoote City Hall, France / Vinkem Church, Beauvoorde
By the way, Tongerlohuys, Rosendaal
- 2008 *Onthaasting, About Slow Worlds and Spare Time*, American University Museum at the Katzen Center in Washington DC, US
Poëziezomer, Watou
Vision in Motion/Motion in Vision, Verbeke Foundation, Kemzeke
Over voetbal, Herman Teirlinckhuis, Beerstel
- 2009 *Het zelfde en het Andere - Humanisme stilstaand verbeeld*, Zebrastraat, Ghent
Als stenen spreken, Diamantmuseum, Antwerp
Fading, Museum van Elsene, Brussels
- 2010 *Koers*, Herman Teirlinckhuis, Beersel
- 2011 *Gevaarlijk Jong*, Museum Guislain, Ghent
Flemish Artists, Flanders House, New York Times Building, New York
Nietsvermoedend in het park, Pocketroom, Antwerp
La part des Anges, Villa de Olmen', ruimte voor actuele kunst, Wieze
- 2012 *Verzorgers uit!*, Herman Teirlinckhuis, Beersel
- 2013 *5th Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art Special Project*, State Central Museum of Contemporary History of Russia, Moscow, Russia
350 jaar academie Antwerpen, MAS, Antwerp
Oorlog & trauma, Museum Guislain, Ghent

- 2014 *Biënnale van Poznan*, Poznan, Poland
Stille kracht, Warande, Cultureel Centrum, Turnhout
- 2015 *Praetoria*, Praetoria, Antwerp
- 2016 *Buiten de context*, Kasteel Cortewalle, Beveren
Land van Belofte, Praetoria, Antwerp
Biënnale van Poznan, Muzeum Narodowe w Poznaniu, Poznan, Poland
- 2017 *Kathmandu Triennale*, Kathmandu, Nepal
Camouflaged Pearls, Bruthaus, Waregem
Between earth and heaven, PAK, Brugge
- 2018 *Verknipt*, Warp, Sint-Niklaas
European Capital of Culture, Saint James Cavalier, Valletta, Malta
Manifesta, Global Garden, Palermo, Italy
- 2019 *Il potere sta nella sua vulnerabilità*, Asilo, MACRO Museum, Rome, Italy
Camouflaged Pearls II, Bruthaus, Waregem
- 2020 *Salon des Editions*, Museum D-Hondt-D-Haenens, Deurle
Privaat, Bruthaus Gallery, Waregem
- 2021 *A Butterfly's Scream*, PAK, Beernem
Life begins at fifty but it ends at forty, Municipal Gallery, Bydgoszcz, Poland
Art Ghent, SMAK, Ghent
Buy Art, Kunsthal, Ghent
- 2022 *Every Collection Hides Another Collection*, Provinciehuis, Antwerp
Art Beats, Belfius Collection, Brussels

Award

- 1992 *Young Belgian Painting*, 1st prize: Emile Langui Prize

Public Collections

- Museum of Modern Art Artetage, Vladivostok, Russia
 MDL Museum of Deinze en de Leiestreek, Deinze
 M HKA Museum of Contemporary Art Antwerpen
 Mu.ZEE, Oostende

[NEW CORONAVIRUS COUNTERMEASURES]

HRD Fine Art implements the following countermeasures to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus as we restart our exhibition program at the gallery.

i. Suspension of opening receptions

Previously, we used to host opening reception parties for our exhibitions held in the gallery to facilitate communication between the artists and the audience. However, to ensure safety of the visitors, we will suspend opening receptions for the time being.

ii. Body temperature measurement, facemasks, and hand disinfection

We kindly ask all visitors to measure their body temperature prior to their visit (on the same day). In some cases we might kindly request to measure the guest's body temperature using non-contact thermometer. Anyone with the body temperature at 37.5°C or higher, or anyone with respiratory symptoms such as coughing, will not be permitted entry to the gallery. All visitors are kindly requested to wear an unwoven mask or equivalent or a higher-level respirator at all time during their visit. Cloth masks, urethane masks, and gauze masks are not permitted, and those with such masks are requested to wear unwoven masks provided by the gallery. Please contact us beforehand if you cannot wear an unwoven mask due to any specific health condition. Visitors shall disinfect their hands before they enter the gallery using alcohol-based hand sanitizer provided by the gallery.

iii. Limited number of people allowed in the gallery at once

In order to avoid congestion, we might ask visitors to wait outside the building until other visitors already in the gallery finish viewing the exhibition and leave.

iv. Possibility of temporary closure of the gallery or shift to appointment-only system

As a result of close monitoring of the pandemic situation and in order to safeguard all people involved in a more secure manner, HRD Fine Art might temporarily close its door and suspend the exhibition program altogether, or introduce an appointment-only system without prior notice or on short notice. We will make sure to notify such changes as swiftly as possible through channels that include our website (www.hrdfineart.com) and social media.

Thank you for your kind understanding and cooperation!

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For further information or for artwork images please contact us:

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