



Hans Op de Beeck - Press Folder

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“Staging Silence”

at the Baukunst Galerie

30 October to 27 November 2009

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further information and pictures:

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Theodor-Heuss-Ring 7
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opening hours:

Tue-Fri 10 a.m.-6.30 p.m.

Sat 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

and by appointment



BIOGRAPHY

- 1969 born in Turnhout, Belgium
- 1992-96 Masters Degree in Visual Arts, Higher Institute Sint-Lukas, Brussels
- 1996-97 Participant at The Higher Institute for Fine Arts-Flanders, Antwerp (post-MA)
- 1998-1999 Participant at the Rijksakademie, Amsterdam (post-MA)
- 2001 Winner of the 'Prix Jeune Peinture Belge 2001',
Palais des Beaux Arts, Brussels
- 2002-03 Artist at the MoMA-P.S.1 Studio Program, New York
- 2006 Winner of the Prize Eugène Baie 2003-2005, Antwerp
- 2009 Catholic University of Leuven Culture Prize 2009-2010

lives and works in Brussels, Belgium

SOLO-EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

- 2009 "A Selection of Video Works – Three Day Event in Paris",
Palais de Tokyo, Paris; Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts de Paris;
Galleria Continua, Boissy-le-Châtel
"Staging Silence", KunstFilmBiennale, Baukunst Galerie, Cologne
"Staging Silence", CC Strombeek, Grimbergen (B)
"In Silent Conversation with Correggio", Galleria Borghese, Rome
"The Room Series", Ron Mandos, Art Amsterdam
"Paradigms", solo presentation as part of the project "curated by_vienna 09",
Galerie Krinzinger, Vienna
"Staging Silence", Galleria Continua, Beijing
- 2008 "Celebration", Galleria Continua, San Gimignano(I)
"Location (6)", Westergasfabriek, Holland Festival, Amsterdam
"Circumstances", Rogaland Museum of Fine Arts, Stavanger
- 2007 "Extensions", M/ Treasury of Saint Peter, Leuven (B)
"Drifting", Argos, Brussels
"Extensions", Centraal Museum, Utrecht
"The Stewarts have a party", Derlon Theater, Maastricht
"Extensions", Galleria Continua, San Gimignano
"All together now...", Argos, Brussels
"All together now...", Galerie Ron Mandos, Amsterdam

- 2006 "Family (scenes and scenery)", Xavier Hufkens Gallery, Brussels
 "Videoworks", Muhka_media, Antwerp
 "Drawings", Galerie Les Filles du Calvaire, Paris
 "Tables...", Galerie Krinzinger, Vienna
 "Video in tutti i sensi - My Brother's Gardens", Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa, Venice
 "Video in tutti i sensi – Loss Viafarini", Milan
- 2005 "T-Mart", sculptural installation and video animation, Hales Gallery, London
 "Blender", Galleria Continua, San Gimignano (I)
 "Loss", Chamarande - Centre Artistique et Culturel, Chamarande (F)
 "T-Mart", sculptural installation and video animation, ABC2004-MuHKA, Museum of Contemporary Art, Antwerp
 "In their minds...", Nicole Klagsbrun Gallery, New York
- 2004 "Loss", sculptural video installation, Art Basel - Miami Beach, Miami
 "Loss", Galerie Les Filles du Calvaire, Paris
 "Determination (Vottem Requiem)", video installation with music by Steve Houben, In Flanders' Fields Museum, Leper (B)
 Galerie Ron Mandos, Rotterdam
 "Ondertussen.../ Meanwhile...", GeM, Museum of Contemporary Art, The Hague
- 2003 "My brother's gardens", Hales Gallery, London
 "My brother's gardens", Xavier Hufkens Gallery, Brussels
- 2001 "Colours", DOT projects, London
 Hales Gallery, London
- 2000 Dorothee De Pauw Gallery, Brussels
 2nd space, Team Gallery, New York
 Spazio Erasmus Brera, Milan
- 1999 Dorothee De Pauw Gallery, Brussels

GROUP-EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

- 2009 "Le sort probable de l'homme qui avait avalé le fantôme",
 La Conciergerie, Paris
 "Almost Cinema", Vooruit, Ghent
 "Uit het geheugen. Over weten en vergeten", Museum Dr. Guislain, Ghent
 "Discovering Slowness", CEAC, Chinese European Art Centre, Xiamen
 "Conflicting Tales - The Burger Collection in Berlin", Zimmerstrasse 90-91,
 Berlin
 Fantastic Illusions, MOCA, Shanghai; Buda, Kortrijk (B)
 "RETREAT", Fort Asperen, Asperen (NL)

“Rites de Passage”, SCHUNCK-Glaspaleis, Heerlen (NL)
 “In-Finitum”, Palazzo Fortuny, Venice
 “Auto. Dream and Matter”, Laboral, Gijón; Dos de Mayo Art Center, Madrid
 “A Story of the Image”, Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai; National Museum of Singapore, Singapore
 “After the End: Faux Raccords”, Tabacalera - future National Centre for Visual Arts, Madrid
 “State’s of emergency” (DEEP NORTH - transmediale.09), House of World Cultures, Berlin
 “Location (6)”, 300 m2 sculptural installation“ Art Unlimited, Art Basel 40
 “Argos - Open Lounge”, Villa Merkel, Esslingen am Neckar
 “KunstFilmBiennale 2007 on tour”, KunstWerke, Berlin; Museo Reina Sofia, Madrid; Centre Pompidou, Paris

- 2008
- “SCHUNCK Collectors House”, Glaspaleis, Heerlen
 “COLLECTION XXIII”, MuHKA, Antwerp
 “Le temps sensible - Video des Monats”, Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna
 “nach/sichten - Selected works from the Goetz Collection”, Edith Russ Site for Media Art, Oldenburg
 “Extensions (part 2)”, Galerie Krinzinger, ShContemporary, Shanghai (CHN)
 “Singapore Biennale 2008: Wonder”, Marina Bay (Singapore)
 “Unmoved”, Galleria Continua, Beijing
 “Variable Capital”, Bluecoat Arts Centre, Liverpool
 “Arts Towada – Location (5)”, permanent installation, Towada Art Centrum, Towada (J)
 “Garden Eden - The garden in art since 1900”, Städtische Galerie Bietigheim-Bissingen (D)
 “No Place - like Home. Perspectives on Migration in Europe”, Argos, Brussels
 “Doing it my way. Perspectives on Belgian Art”, Museum Küppersmühle für Moderne Kunst, Duisburg
 “Wandering in Contemporary Video Art”, Magazzini del Sale - Palazzo Pubblico, Siena
 “Du dessin à l'animation du dess(e)in”, Centre Wallonie-Bruxelles, Paris
 “Tangled Up In You. Connecting, Coexisting, and Conceiving Identity 21c Museum”, Louisville, Kentucky
 “Le Dessin Eveillé”, Frac Picardie & Maison de la Culture, Amiens
 “Car Culture”, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Arizona
- 2007
- “Erasing the Edge”, Miami Design District - LIDIA building, Miami
 “New Collection”, Museum Wuyts – Van Campen, Lier
 “Merry-go-round (2)”, 200 m2 sculptural installation, Art Unlimited, Art Basel 38
 “Garden Eden - The garden in art since 1900”, Kunsthalle in Emden
 “Video Belga”, Sala Parpalló, València
 “La città che sale - We try to build the future”, MACRO Future, Rome
 “Dealing with Reality”, Museum of Modern Art, Arnhem (NL)
 “Art Summer University”, four day long video art event, Tate Modern, London

“Discovering Slowness”, The National Centre of Photography of the Russian Federation, Saint Petersburg
 “Een verhaal van het beeld (A Story of the Image)”, MuHKA, Antwerp
 “La citta che sale - We try to build the future”, Arcos, Benevento
 “About Contemporary Figuration Safe”, Dalfsen (NL)
 “Paysages / Visions Paradoxaes”, ISELP, Brussels
 “Discovering Slowness”, Monumentaal Pand, 's-Hertogenbosch (NL)
 “Les Rencontres Internationales Circulo de Bellas Artes”, Madrid
 “Imagination Becomes Reality (# 6)”, ZKM, Karlsruhe
 “De gustibus...”, Broelmuseum, Kortrijk (B)
 “The Leading Thread”, CAB, Centro de Arte Caja de Burgos, Burgos (ES)
 “Our Magic Hour”, Arario Gallery, Cheonan-si, Chungcheongnam-do, South Korea
 “Animated Stories”, Le Fresnoy - Studio National des Arts Contemporains Tourcoing (F)

2006 “Version Animée 06. Biennale des nouveaux médias“, Centre pour l'image contemporaine, Saint-Gervais, Geneva
 “6th Shanghai Biennale”, Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai
 “The Scarecrow”, Evangelos Averoff Museum, Metsovo (GR)
 “Field Work”, Kunstvereniging Diepenheim, Diepenheim (NL)
 “Fresh! Contemporary Takes on Nature and Allegory”, Museum of Glass, Tacoma (USA)
 “Animated Stories”, CaixaForum, Barcelona
 “Zwischen Körper und Objekt”, MARTa Herford, Herford
 “A la rencontre de l'eau”, Chamarande-Centre Artistique et Culturel, Chamarande
 “Bruegel Revisited”, Kasteel Bouchout, Meise (B)
 “Psychogeographies”, ArtBrussels, Brussels
 “Film-Still-Life”, The Josef Sudek Studio, Prague
 “Analog Animation / Selections Spring 2006”, The Drawing Center, New York
 “The Collection XIV”, MuHKA - Museum of Contemporary Art, Antwerp
 “Boucles d'Or”, FRAC Basse-Normandie, Caen

2005 “NIGHT SITES”, Kunstverein Hannover, Hannover
 “The MARTa Herford Collection”, MARTa, Herford
 “Argos Festival”, Argos, Brussels
 “Senza Confine (15th Year)”, Galleria Continua, San Gimignano (I)
 “KO Video 1st Durban Video Festival”, Durban, South Africa
 “Coniston Water Festival”, Old Hall, Coniston Water (GB)
 “SOUL (Corpus '05)”, Episcopal Seminary, Bruges (B)
 “En Attente” Casino Luxembourg - Forum d'art contemporain, Luxembourg
 “Nous le passage - Watou 2005”, different venues, Watou (B)
 “Terra Infirma”, ACC - Espai d'Art Contemporani de Castelló, Castelló (ES)
 “Wasteland: 21st Century Landscape”, Roebling Hall, New York (USA)
 “Visionary Belgium”, BOZAR - Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels

- 2004 "100 % Acid Free", White Columns, New York
 "Voodoo Shit", Hales Gallery, London
 "All that useless beauty", Whitechapel, Project Space, London
 "Brooklyn Euphoria", Volume, Williamsburg, New York
 "Location (5)", 300 m² sculptural installation, Art Unlimited, Art Basel 35
 "Border", In Flanders' Fields Museum, Ieper (B)
 "On Paper", Nicole Klagsbrun Gallery, New York
- 2003 "Once Upon a Time... - A view on art in Belgium in the 90's", MuHKA -
 Museum of Contemporary Art, Antwerp
 "Lautloses Irren - Ways of worldmaking to...", Postbahnhof Am Ostbahnhof,
 Berlin
 "Present / Future", Artissima, Torino
 "Leere X Vision. Körper und Gegenstände", MARTa, Herford
 "Still / Move", Caermersklooster, Ghent
 "Some Panoramas", Pump House Gallery, London
 "Intervallò n°1 : Maloberti, Onofre, Op de Beeck", VistaMare, Pescara (I)
 "Gelijk het leven is", S.M.A.K. - Museum of Contemporary Art, Ghent
 "Breaking Away", PS1-MoMA, New York
 "Entdecke die Möglichkeiten", Espaces de rêve, Cologne
 "The Ambiguity of the Image", Art Athina, Athens
 "City Mouse/ Country Mouse", Space 101, Williamsburg - New York
 "Critique is not enough", Shedhalle, Zürich
 "Rijksakademie", Victoria Miro Gallery, London
- 2002 "Arsenal / Armoury", Wandelhalle Cologne
 "Printemps de Septembre", presentation of 7 videos, Toulouse
 "La Nuova Agorà", Cittadellarte/ Fondazione Pistoletto, Biella (I)
 "Scale", Museum of Installation, London
 "Video Festival Verbania", Verbania (I)
 "BIG Torino 2002, International Biennale of Young Art", Torino
 "Landscape", Le Botanique, Brussels
 "Other than film", International Film Festival of Rotterdam – TENT, Rotterdam
 "Not I", NICC, Antwerp (B)
- 2001 "Prix Jeune Peinture Belge", Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels
 "Aubette", Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens, Deurle (B)
 "Nowaday", Spazio Erasmus Brera, Milan
 "Still/ life", hARTware projekte, Dortmund
 "C'est beau, c'est Belge", Barbara Farber Gallery, Trets (F)
- 2000 "Home Wrecker", Private Space Meloche, Chicago
 "Anno Zero - Cittadellarte 2000", Fondazione Pistoletto, Biella (I)
 "Not I", The Ormeau Baths Gallery, Belfast (IR)
 "Lovideo", The Vedanta Gallery, Chicago

- 1999 "Progetto Arti Incontri", Fondazione Pistoletto, Biella (I)
"TroubleSpot. Painting", MUHKA & NICC, Antwerp

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Catalogues and Publications

- 2009 *KunstFilmBiennale 2009*, Cat.: KunstFilmBiennale Köln-Bonn, ed. by Heinz Peter Schwerfel and Gerhard Kock, Berlin 2009.
- In-Finitum*, Vervoordt Foundation, Antwerp, June 2009.
- Art Unlimited*, Ausst.-Kat.: Art Basel 40, Basel 2009.
- 2008 **Slater**, Ben: *Singapore Biennale 2008*, Cat.: National Arts Council Singapore, Singapore, December 2008.
- Pas**, Johan: *Made by sculptors? Forms of sculpture today*, in: OKV, Ghent October / November 2008.
- Hans Op de Beeck: The Wilderness Inside - 'Location (6)'*, artist publication with an essay by Nicolas De **Oliveira** and Nicola **Oxley** 2008.
- Hoet**, Jan and **Benedetti**, Lorenzo: *Doing it my Way. Perspectives on Belgian Art*, Cat.: Museum Küppersmühle für Moderne Kunst, Duisburg 2008.
- UOVO MAGAZINE #16 - Into the outside*, The Bookmakers, Torino, January-March 2008.
- Artists Handbook - George Wittenborns Guestbook, with 21st Century Additions*, ed. by Ludion and Ronny **Van de Velde**, Ghent 2008.
- 2007 **Ohlsen**, Nils: *Garden Eden - Der Garten in der Kunst seit 1900*, Cat.: Kunsthalle Emden, Emden 2007.
- Jubilee (2007-1987-1967)*, Cat.: MuHKA, Antwerp 2007.
- Hans Op de Beeck. Extensions*, artist publication with a short story by Hans **Op de Beeck**, Ostfildern 2007.
- La citta che sale - We try to build the future*, ARCOS, Benevento 2007.



Hans Op de Beeck. On Vanishing, monograph with texts by Nicolas De **Oliveira** and Nicola **Oxley**, ed. by Mercatorfonds & Xavier Hufkens, Brussels 2007.

El Hilo Conductor. The Leading Thread, CAB, Burgos 2007.

Farronato, Milovan: *Our Magic Hour. European Artists' Show*, Cat.: Arario Gallery, Cheonan-si 2007.

Art Unlimited, Ausst.-Kat.: Art Basel 38, Basel 2007.

2006 **Kealy**, Séamus: *18: Beckett*, Blackwood Gallery, Mississauga 2006.

Dreyfus, Laurence: *Version Animée 06. Biennale des nouveaux médias*, Cat.: Centre pour l'image contemporaine, Saint-Gervais, Geneva 2006.

Istorio Animatuak, Cat.: CaixaForum, Barcelona 2006.

Daniylopoulou, Olga / **Oliveira**, Nicolas De / **Oxley**, Nicola: *The Scarecrow*, Cat.: Averoff Museum of Modern Greek Art, Metsovo 2006.

Hoet, Jan / **Souben**, Véronique / **Fast**, Friederike: *Between Body and Object*, Cat.: Museum Marta Herford, Herford 2006.

Van Gelder, Hilde: *Bruegel Revisited*, Stichting Kunstboek, Oostkamp 2006.

Camnitzer, Luis and **Carl**, Katherine: *Drawing Papers 60. Analog Animation Selections Spring 2006*, Cat.: The Drawing Center, New York 2006.

Sammlung / Collection Marta Herford 01, Cat.: Museum Marta Herford, Herford 2006.

2005 **Berg**, Stephan and **Engler**, Martin: *Night Sites*, Cat.: Kunstverein Hannover, Hannover 2005.

Arttaste, Toohcsmi publishers, Ghent 2005.

Op de Beeck, Hans: "Sea-view", in: *Gagarin - the artists in their own words*, Waasmunster 2005.

Streak, Greg: *KO VIDEO. 1st Durban Video Festival*, Cat.: Pulse, Durban 2005.

"De XXIII", in: *DW&B*, Leuven 2005.

Argos Festival 2005, Cat.: Argos - Centre for Art & Media, Brussels 2005.

Terra Infirma, Cat.: EACC - Espai d'Art Contemporani de Castelló, Castello 2005.

Soul. Inspired Art, Cat.: Brugge Plus vzw, Bruges 2005.

Guenin, Hélène and **Walentiny**, Christine: *En Attente*, Cat.: Casino Luxembourg, Luxembourg 2005.

Nous le Passage, Cat.: Poëziezomers-Kunstzomers Watou vzw, Watou 2005.

2004 *Art Unlimited*, Cat.: Art Basel 35, Basel 2004.

Vottem, Cat.: In Flanders' Fields Museum, Ieper 2004.

Strangers in a strange land, Cat.: In Flanders' Fields Museum, Ieper 2004.

Eerste beweging - Beschouwingen over het museale bezit tot 1600, Cat.: Stedelijk Museum Vander Kelen-Mertens, Leuven 2004.

Lautloses irren, ways of worldmaking, too..., Cat.: Flux I Bell Structures, Berlin 2003.

Breaking Away MoMA-P.S.1, program 2002-2003, New York 2003.

Van Steenberghe, Els: *Groot Toneel*, Antwerp 2003.

Oliveira, Nicolas De / **Oxley**, Nicola / **Petry**, Michael: *Installation Art in the New Millennium. The Empire of the Senses*, London 2003.

Still / Move, Cat.: Provinciaal Cultuurcentrum Caermersklooster, Ghent 2003.

2002 *Arsenal / Armoury*, Cat.: Die Wandelhalle, Cologne 2002.

Body Movement, Cultuurcentrum / Stad Brugge, Bruges 2002.

Too Big/ Big Torino, Biennale Internationale Arte Giovane, Turin 2002.

Le petit cabinet d'un amateur de ruines, Orion Art Gallery, Brussels / Ostend 2002.

Fragilités, Cat.: Le Printemps de Septembre Festival, Toulouse 2002.

- 2001 **Bex**, Florent: *Art in Belgium after 1975*, Antwerp 2001.
- Op de Beeck**, Hans: "De Tuinen van mijn Broer (My Brother's Gardens)", in: *DW&B*, Leuven 2001.
- Hans Op de Beeck: A Selection of Works 1996 – 2001*, monograph with a text by Marie-Pascale **Gildemyn**, ed. by Dorothee Depauw Gallery & Cera Foundation, Brussels – Leuven 2001.
- Prix Jeune Peinture Belge 2001*, Cat.: Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels 2001.
- La nature n'existe pas*, Speelhoven vzw, Aarschot 2001.
- Aubette*, Cat.: Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens, Deurle 2001.
- Secret Gardens*, Kasteel Domein Reckheim, CC Lanaken & Annemie Van Laethem, Oud-Rekem 2001.
- Address*, De Verloren Man & Brussels 2000, Brussels 2000.
- 2000 *10 PAAR*, ed. by Vlaamse Gemeenschap & Ministerie van Cultuur Estland 2000.
- Hans Op de Beeck - Koenraad Dedobbeleer*, Cat.: De Warande, Turnhout 2000.
- Doel zonder Oorzaak*, Cat.: De Bezige Bij & W139, Amsterdam 2000.
- 1996 *Meyers & Boelens I Hans Op de Beeck I Gert Robijns*, Cat.: De Warande, Turnhout 1996.
- Ithaka*, ed. by Cultuurraad K.U. Leuven en Stad Leuven, Leuven 1996.

Articles and Reviews

- 2008 **Naso**, Rüdiger von: "Vorsicht: Parallele Welten! Der belgische Künstler Hans Op de Beeck liebt das Spiel mit der Illusion", in: *MADAME*, June 2008.
- Oliveira**, Nicolas De / **Oxley**, Nicola: "Nocturne. The Art of Hans Op de Beeck", in: *The Low Countries. Arts and Society in Flanders and the Netherlands*, Yearbook no. 16, April 2008.

Gildemyn, Marie-Pascale: "Extensions. Lettre ouverte à Hans Op de Beeck"
in: *DITS*, January 2008.

2007 **Van den Bergh**, Jos: "Hans Op de Beeck", in: *Artforum*, March 2007.

Somzé, Catherine: "The neo-romanticism of Hans Op de Beeck", in:
Tubelight, March 2007.

2005 **O'Reilly**, Sally: "Sinnlose Worte. Das Werk von Hans Op de Beeck"
in: *Frame*, November 2005.

Verdier, Evence: "Hans Op de Beeck - The Twilight of Illusions", in: *Art Press*
September 2005.

Herbert, Martin: "Hans Op de Beeck", in: *Artforum*, April 2005.

2004 **O'Reilly**, Sally: "Profile: Hans Op de Beeck", in: *Contemporary*,
Summer issue 2004.

Interviews

2009 Hans Op de Beeck in conversation with Ilaria **Mariotti**, in: *Arte e Critica*
No. 57, December 2008 - February 2009.

2006 Hans Op de Beeck in conversation with Christine **Vuegen**, in: *Kunstbeeld* ,
December 2006.

Hans Op de Beeck in conversation with Gerrit **Vermeiren**, in: *(H)art*,
November 2006.

Hans Op de Beeck in conversation with Hilde **Van Gelder** and Mieke
Bleyen, in: *Bruegel Revisited*, April 2006.

Hans Op de Beeck in conversation with Eva **Wittocx**, in: *E-Flux*
(*IBK-newsletter*), November 2005.

On the 29th of October from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. the Baukunst Galerie opens a major solo-exhibition with a monumental video projection of the Belgian artist Hans Op de Beeck. The film “Staging Silence” is presented in the context of the KunstFilmBiennale and will be shown at the gallery until the 27th of November 2009. Furthermore there will be a screening of the film “Extensions” within the international competition of the KunstFilmBiennale at the Black Box of the Cinedom on Friday, the 30st of October at 9 p.m.

The exhibition at the Baukunst Galerie is the German premiere of “Staging Silence”. Its score was specially composed for the film by the musician Serge Lacroix, inspired by the images themselves. In addition to the 22 minutes lasting video loop an accompanying artist edition was created. It supplements the installation by a photo of the set of “Staging Silence” in the form of a black-and-white lambda exposure on dibond (102 cm x 73 cm) and thereby delivers an insight into the working process of the artist.

Hans Op de Beeck was born in 1969 in Turnhout, Belgium and lives and works in Brussels. In his œuvre he uses a very wide variety of media – he paints, draws, takes pictures, shoots films, produces sculptures and monumental installations, writes short stories and designs stage settings. It is his quest for the most effective way of presenting the concrete contents of each work that determines his selection of the medium. As a locum of the spectator he searches for situations, which invite to identification. In his parallel worlds he creates fictional places, moments and characters, hoping that the spectator takes them for real for a moment. Therefore he works with effects of trompe-l’œil undermining them by alienating elements as the overreached shifting of proportions. In his play with illusions he questions the complex relation between reality and representation, between what we see and what we want to believe in order to make it easier to deal with our own deficiency. His suggestive, visual proposals produce disquieting, melancholic, ambivalent images in our mind and thereby capture the tragicomic absurdity of our postmodern existence.

After his studies at the Rijksakademie the artist received the Prix Jeune Peinture Belge in 2001. From 2002 to 2003 he succeeded with a residence scholarship at the MoMA and the P.S.1 in New York. Moreover he was awarded the Eugène Baie Award in 2006 and the Catholic University of Leuven Culture Prize in 2009. His works were already exhibited at major international museums as the Reina Sofia (Madrid), the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art (Arizona), the ZKM (Karlsruhe), the Kunstverein Hannover, the Whitechapel Art Gallery (London), the S.M.A.K. (Ghent) and the P.S.1 (New York). Beside several monumental installations at the “Art Unlimited” space of the Art Basel from 2004 to 2009 his works were also presented at the Shanghai Biennale 2006 and the Singapore Biennale 2008.

“Staging Silence”, 2009

22 min loop, 16:9, black/white, Full HD video, transferred to Blu-Ray Disk, edition of 10 (+2AP)

“Staging Silence’ is based around remembered spaces; not any specific sites, but the abstract, archetypal settings that lingered in my memory as the common denominator of the many similar public places I have visited and experienced. The video images themselves are both ridiculous and serious, just like the eclectic mix of pictures in our minds. The decision to film in black-and-white heightens this ambiguity: the amateurish quality of the video invokes the legacy of slapstick, as well as the insidious suspense and latent derailment of film noir. But perhaps gravity and menace ultimately prevail. The title, “staging silence”, refers to the staging of such dormant decors where, in the absence of people, the spectator can project himself as the lone protagonist, unhindered by others.

Memory images are disproportionate mixtures of concrete information and fantasies, and in this film they materialize before the spectator’s eyes through anonymous tinkering and improvising hands. Arms, like those of faceless puppeteers, appear and disappear at random, manipulating banal objects, scale representations and artificial lighting into alienating yet recognizable locations. These places are no more or less than animated decors for possible stories, evocative visual propositions to the spectator.“

(Hans Op de Beeck)