

## Stef Driesen

b. 1966 in Hasselt, Belgium  
Lives and works in Brussels, Belgium



Driesen's expressive canvases are charged with both emotional and physical sensuality. While recalling human forms, his work operates a subtle balance between landscape and abstraction, a symbiosis between the romantic sublime and mortal carnality. Translating the materiality of paint into ephemeral fields redolent with contemplation, desire, and loss, his paintings convey the fragile and heroic nature of human condition.

# **Stef Driesen**

GALLERY EXHIBITIONS

# Galerie

# Greta Meert

Stef Driesen

November 28, 2015  
— February 6, 2016



Installation view, Galerie Greta Meert, 2015

Galerie Greta Meert is pleased to show recent work by Stef Driesen. This is the first collaboration between the gallery and the artist.

Stef Driesen's works seek a delicate balance between colour, material and scale. The faded contours dividing the pictorial space betray a versatile handling of the brush. Through a specific treatment of the paint, Driesen creates a large margin between opaque and transparent effect. The matte texture lays a velvety film on the canvas, which confers a certain sensuality to its physical presence.

Each work is gradually built up, starting from the background; each new layer creates depth. In the underlaying space, a shimmering light seems to be enclosed that subsequently breaks through intensely or is subtly muted. Despite the vertical format, the strong transcendent quality of Driesen's paintings reminds one of romantic landscape painting, of the dramatic effect of natural light, the dynamics of the forces of nature in the work of William Turner. However, art-historical references remain intuitive rather than direct, as is the case for his entire oeuvre.

Driesen's dense, atmospheric plains seem to incorporate a range of emotions. It is not so much the artist's inner world that is being represented here, rather, the works look for a contemplative experience from the side of the spectator, they evoke more than they 'express' (in the expressionistic sense).

The exhibition includes a number of abstract works. Yet, the artist's earlier figurative work can still be felt in the soft palette of flesh and earthy tones that is only rarely broken by intense orange or warm red, and in the monolithic, silent figures that unite fragility and monumentality.

# Galerie

# Greta Meert



Installation view, Galerie Greta Meert, 2015

# Galerie

# Greta Meert



Installation view, Galerie Greta Meert, 2015

13 rue du Canal  
1000 Brussels

+32 2 219 14 22  
[info@galeriegretameert.com](mailto:info@galeriegretameert.com)

# **Stef Driesen**

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

# Galerie

# Greta Meert

Stef Driesen

*Light to dark, dark to light*

October 19, 2018

— January 6, 2019



Installation view, *Light to dark, dark to light*, CC Mechelen, 2018

13 rue du Canal  
1000 Brussels

+32 2 219 14 22  
[info@galeriegretameert.com](mailto:info@galeriegretameert.com)

# Galerie

# Greta Meert



Installation view, *Light to dark, dark to light*, CC Mechelen, 2018

# Galerie

# Greta Meert



Installation view, *Light to dark, dark to light*, CC Mechelen, 2018

# Galerie

# Greta Meert



Installation view, *Light to dark, dark to light*, CC Mechelen, 2018

## **EDUCATION**

1998-1991

Higher Institute of Fine Arts PXL, Department graphic Art,  
Hasselt, Belgium

## **SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

2016

Stef Driesen, Gallery Baton, Seoul, Korea

2015

Galerie Greta Meert, Brussels, Belgium  
M HKA INBOX, Antwerpen, Belgium

2014

Gallery Sofie Van de Velde, Antwerp, Belgium

2013

Marc Foxx Gallery, Los Angeles, USA

2010

Hoet Bekaert Galerij, Knokke, Belgium

2008

Harris Lieberman Gallery, New York, USA  
Marc Foxx, Los Angeles, USA

2007

*Stef Driesen: Rock Face*, The Breeder Gallery, Athens, Greece

2006

Alison Jacques Gallery, London, UK  
*Stef Driesen: Scar Lines*, Harris Lieberman Gallery, New York, USA

2005

Marc Foxx Gallery, Los Angeles, USA

## **SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

2020

*Het Schilderatelier*, PXL-MAD School of Arts, Hasselt, Belgium

*L'heure Bleu*, Gallery Sofie Van de Velde, Antwerp, Belgium

2019

*Di fuoachi e accesi sensi*, Galerie Greta Meert, Brussels, Belgium

*Looking at the world through rose coloured glasses*, Gallery Sofie Van de Velde, Antwerp, Belgium

2018

*Light to dark, dark to light*, Cultuurcentrum Mechelen, Belgium

2013

Lattice Gallery, Siege, Malta

*E-motion*, Fondation Maeght, Saint-Paul-de-Vence, France

2012

*Belgium Contemporary Now*, Gallery Baton, Seoul, South Korea

2011

*The Dicke Collection, Creating the New Century*, Dayton Art Institute  
Ohio, USA

Galerie Tatjana Pieters, Ghent, Belgium

2010

*Public Private Paintings*, MuZee, Oostende, Belgium

*Summer Teeth*, The Breeder Gallery, Athene, Greece

*Redefining Landscape*, Stephan Simoens Galerij, Knokke, Belgium

2009

*When the mood strikes*, Museum Dhondt Dhaenens, Deurle, Belgium

2008

*Stef Driesen / Tommy White: Sculpture*, Harris Lieberman, New York, USA

*Future tense: Reshaping the Landscape*, Neuberger Museum of Art, New York, USA

2007

*Pushing the Canvas*, Cultuurcentrum Mechelen, Belgium

2006

*People*, Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Donna Regina, Napoli, Italy

2005

*The Third Peak*, Art Concept, Paris, France

2004

*Michael Bauer/Chris Brodhal/Stef Driesen*, Marc Foxx Gallery, Los Angeles, USA

2001

*Deluca/Driesen*, Velinx, Tongeren, Belgium

# Galerie

# Greta Meert

## ***SELECTED PUBLIC COLLECTIONS***

Mark Foxx, LA, USA

Foundation Maeght, France

Saint-Paul-de-Vence, France

Saatchi collection, UK

Dayton Art Institute, USA

Kunstmuseum Aan Zee, Oostende, Belgium

MADRe Museum, Italy

Neuberger Museum of Art, USA

Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University (MSU Broad), USA

FIBAC Antwerp, Belgium

## **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

2016

*Artists at Home/Work*, Thijs Demeulemeester and Diane Dendriks,  
Luster publisher

2015

*Stef Driesen*, Luster publisher

2011

Creating the New Century: Art from the Dicke Collection

2008

Galleries-Downtown, "Stef Driesen", The New Yorker, November  
Rosenberg Karen, "Art in Review: Stef Driesen", The New York  
Times, October

Punjj Rajesh, "Review: Stef Driesen", Flash Art Italy, March–April  
Young Paul, "Stef Driesen: Gothic Aspirations", Los Angeles Times,  
Calendarlive.com

2006

Jason Jules, "Soul Man", Dazed and Confused, December  
Bell Eugenia, "Stef Driesen: Critic's Pick", Art Forum, November

2005

Simons Raf, et al. Rar Simons Redux, Fondazione Pitti Discovery, Flo-  
rence