## Greta Meert

### **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** 

## Greta Meert

### Stef Driesen

November 28, 2015 — February 6, 2016



Installation view, Galerie Greta Meert, 2015

### Greta Meert

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 Driessen'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 However, art-historical references remain intuitive rather than direct, as is the case for his entire oeuvre.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.



Installation view, Galerie Greta Meert, 2015



Installation view, Galerie Greta Meert, 2015

### **Stef Driesen**

**SELECTED EXHIBITIONS** 

## Greta Meert

Stef Driesen

Light to dark, dark to light

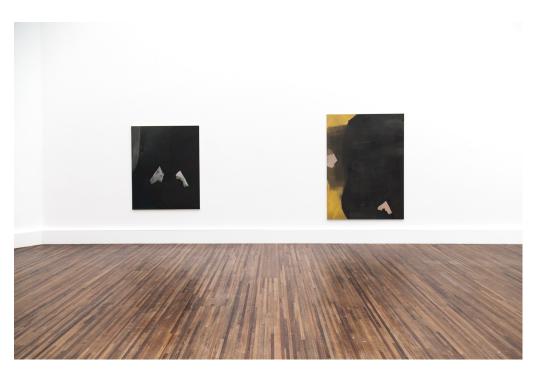
October 19, 2018
— January 6, 2019



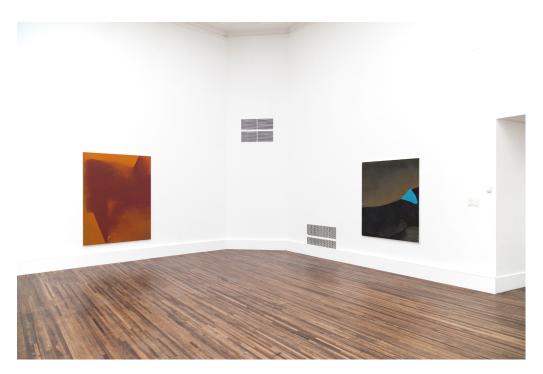
Installation view, Light to dark, dark to light, CC Mechelen, 2018



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



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



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

# Greta Meert

#### **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

### Greta Meert

#### **SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

#### 2020

Het Schilderatelier, PXL-MAD School of Arts, Hasselt, Belgium L'heure Blueu, 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

### Greta Meert

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

### 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

### Greta Meert

#### **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

#### 2016

Artists at Home/Work, Thijs Demeulemeester and Diane Dendrikx, 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, Florence