

## Stef Driesen

b. 1966 in Hasselt, Belgium.

Lives and works in Brussels, Belgium



The Brussels based artist brings forward an interest in a more ambient space, providing atmospheric presence in the work. The grayed palette offers moments of bright color and light breaking through giving a sense of landscape and deep, almost transcendental, fields. The cascading compositions and canyon-like perspectives conjure the movement of waterfalls and, in some cases, is fractured by architectural references. The body, once the primary subject of Driesen's project, can still be sensed at times in ghostly torso references.



# **Stef Driesen**

GALLERY EXHIBITIONS

# Stef Driesen

28 November 2014  
— 30 January 2015

Galerie Greta Meert is pleased to show recent work by Stef Driesen (°1966, Hasselt). 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 underlying 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 However, art-historical references remain intuitive rather than direct, as is the case for his entire oeuvre.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.

Stef Driesen lives and works in Brussels. He studied at PXL University College in Hasselt, where he now teaches at the MAD faculty's painting department. His work has been shown in international exhibitions, amongst others in Foundation Maeght, Saint-Paul-de-Vence (FR), Dayton Art Institute (US), Mu.ZEE, Ostend (BE), MADRE, Naples (IT) and Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase (US).



*Exhibition view, Stef Driesen, 2015*



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## SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2015

Galerie Greta Meert, Brussels, Belgium

2014

G262 Sofie Van de Velde, Antwerp, Belgium

2013

Marc Foxx Gallery, Los Angeles, US

2010

Hoet Bekaert Galerij, Knokke, Belgium

2008

Harris Lieberman Gallery, New York, US

2008

Marc Foxx Gallery, Los Angeles, US

2007

The Breeder Gallery, Athens, Greece

2006

Alison Jacques Gallery, London, UK

2006

Harris Lieberman Gallery, New York, US

2005

Marc Foxx Gallery, Los Angeles, US

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

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, Gand, Belgium

2010

“Public Private Paintings”, MuZee, Oostende, Belgium

“Summer Teeth”, The Breeder Gallery, Athene, Greece

“Redefining the Landscape”, Stephan Simoens Galerij, Knokke, Belgium

2009

“When the mood strikes”, Museum Dhondt Dhaenens, Deurle

2008

“Future tense: Reshaping the Landscape”, Neuberger Museum of Art, New York, US

2007

“Pushing the Canvas”, Cultuurcentrum Mechelen, Belgium

2006

“People”, Madre Museum, Napoli, Italy

2005

“The Third Peak”, Art Concept, Paris, France

2004

“Michael Bauer/Chris Brodhal/Stef Driesen”, Marc Foxx Gallery, Los Angeles, US

2001

“Deluca/Driesen”, Velinx, Tongeren, Belgium

## PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Mark Foxx, LA

Foundation Maeght

Saint-Paul-de-Vence

Saatchi collection

Dayton Art Institute

Kunstmuseum Aan Zee, Oostende;

MADRe Museum,

Naples; and Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase.

## PUBLICATIONS

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