

David Claerbout

b. 1969, Kortrijk, Belgium
Lives and works in Antwerp, Belgium



David Claerbout is one of the most innovative and acclaimed artists working in the realm of moving images today. His practice spans intersections of photography, film, video, 3D, digital technology and new media.

Although trained as a painter, through investigating the nature of photography and film, Claerbout became increasingly drawn to questions of time and duration.

Fusing together the past, present and future into stunning moments of temporal elasticity, his works offer quietly profound meditations on our perception of time and reality, memory and experience, truth and fiction.

Using pixel constellations, image sequences, light, duration and ambient sound, and the architectures of installation itself, his strikingly sensual compositions elicit new modes of perceptual absorption, expectations, comprehension and memory.

EDUCATION

1992–1995

Nationaal Hoger Instituut voor Schone Kunsten, Antwerpen

1996

Rijksacademie van Beeldende Kunst, Amsterdam

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025

Contrepoint Contemporain : David Claerbout. Le printemps, lentement / spring, slowly, Musée de l'Orangerie, Paris, France

Birdcage, Grote Kerk, Alkmaar, Netherlands

David Claerbout. 5 hours 50 days 50 years, Kunschthal Esch, Esch, Luxembourg

David Claerbout, Kunsthall Spritten, Spritten, Denmark

2024

Voyage à Nantes, Passage St. Croix Nante, France

David Claerbout, NRW Kunsthaus, Aachen

2023

Birdsong, Galerie Greta Meert, Brussels, Belgium

Glow, Pedro Cera, Madrid, Spain

Meditation in Peace, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei, Taiwan

2022

David Claerbout: The Close, Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee

AntiCamera, Capa Center, Budapest, Hungary

The Close, Rüdiger Schöttle, Munich

Hemispheres, Esther Schipper, Berlin, Germany

Dark Optics, Sean Kelly, New York, United States

The Close, Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, United States

2021

Unseen Sounds, Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Moscow, Russia

Films, drawings and storyboards from the collection, De Pont Museum of Contemporary Art, Tilburg, Netherlands

Fragment of Sphere, Project Space on the Inside, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Aircraft (F.A.L.), Micheline Szwajcer, Antwerp

2020

Olympia, Galerie Rudolfinum, Prague

Olympia, Samstag Museum, Adelaide

Memling now, Sint-Janshospitaal, Brugge

The Laziness of Action, Kunst Museum Winterthur, Winterthur

Wildfire, Galerie Pedro Cera, Lisbon

2019

The Pure Necessity, Parasol unit in Zuoz, Switzerland

Tweetakt, Fort Ruigenhoek, Utrecht, Netherlands

trois fois rien, Centre National de la Danse, Paris, France

First Look, Museum of the Moving Image, New York

2018

the "confetti" piece, Annet Gelink Gallery, Amsterdam, Netherlands

The Pure Necessity, Galerie Rüdiger Schöttle, Munich, Germany

David Claerbout. Erzähl mir das Ende. Selected Works From the Collection, Espace Louis Vuitton München, Munich, Germany

Night Vision (Dark Optics), Les Abattoirs, Toulouse, France

David Claerbout, Talbot Rice Gallery, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Summer exhibition, Kunsthhaus Bregenz, Bregenz, Austria

2017

Olympia, Schaulager, Laurent Stiftung, Münchenstein, Switzerland

Olympia, MNAC, Barcelona, Spain

David Claerbout, Une exposition du 40e anniversaire du Centre Pompidou, Musée des Beaux Arts, Rennes, France

Olympia, M HKA, Antwerp, Belgium

2016

Olympia, KINDL – Zentrum für zeitgenössische Kunst, Berlin, Germany

Future, De Pont Museum, Tilburg, Netherlands

LIGHT/WORK, Sean Kelly Gallery, New York

Die reine Notwendigkeit, Städel Museum, Frankfurt, Germany

2015

David Claerbout, FRAC Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand, France

David Claerbout, Galerie Micheline Sz wajcer, Brussels, Belgium

David Claerbout, Marabouparken Konsthall, Sundbyberg

David Claerbout, Rudiger Schottle, Munich, Germany

David Claerbout, Projects Art Centre, Dublin, Ireland

Performed Pictures, MAMCO, Geneva, Switzerland

2014

GRIJS / GREY, Nederlands Fotomuseum, Rotterdam, Netherlands

2013

David Claerbout, Kunsthalle Mainz, Mainz Germany

Interfuit, Yvon Lambert, Paris, France

2012

Diese Sonne strahlt immer, Secession, Vienna, Austria

David Claerbout: The Time that Remains, Helena Rubinstein Pavilion for Contemporary Art, Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel Aviv, Israel;

Parasol Unit, London, United Kingdom

2011

The time that remains, WIELS, Brussels, Belgium

David Claerbout: Architecture of Narrative, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco

2010

David Claerbout, Helen and Morris Belkin Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada

uncertain eye, Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich, Germany

2009

The Shape of Time, De Pont Museum of Contemporary Art, Tilburg, Netherlands

David Claerbout, Museo de Chiado, Lisbon, Portugal

2008

David Claerbout, MIT, List Visual Arts Center, Boston

Present, Kunstmuseum St. Gallen, St. Gall, Switzerland

David Claerbout, Helen and Morris Belkin Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada

2007

Sections of a Happy Moment, Espace 315, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

2005

David Claerbout, VanAbbe Museum, Eindhoven, Netherlands

2002

David Claerbout, Annet Gelink gallery, Amsterdam, Netherlands

2001

David Claerbout, Institute of Visual Arts, University of Wisconsin, MW, USA

David Claerbout, Galerie Rudiger Schöttle, Munich, Germany

David Claerbout, Johnen & Schöttle, Cologne, Germany

2000

David Claerbout, Dia Center for the Arts, New York

David Claerbout, Galerie Micheline Sz wajcer, Antwerp, Belgium

David Claerbout, Nicole Klagsbrun Gallery, New York

1999

De Vereniging, SMAK, Ghent, Belgium

Permanent sound-installation in Hallen Kortrijk (cur. by Christian Kieckens), Kortrijk, Belgium

1998

David Claerbout, Etablissement d'en Face, Brussels, Belgium

1997

David Claerbout, Argos, Kanal 20, Brussels, Belgium

David Claerbout, Montevideo Galerie, Antwerp, Belgium

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025

The stories we tell, Museum Boijmans van Beuningen Depot, Rotterdam, Netherlands

MACAM, Lisbon, Portugal

Collected with Vision. Private collections in dialogue with Old Masters, KSMKA, Antwerp, Belgium

Why look at Animals: Considering our Fellow Travelers, EMST, Athens, Greece

From Dusk - The Shadow in Contemporary Art, Kunstmuseum Bonn, Bonn, Germany

For the Birds, Museum für Gegenwartskunst MGKSiegen, Siegen, Germany

Als de kat van huis is, Dutch Museum of Lithography, Valkenswaard, Netherlands

Durch Zug. Zwischenhalt Sammlung: Von Monica Bonvicini bis Karin Sander, Kunst Museum Winterthur, Winterthur, Switzerland

2024

From Ukraine: Dare to Dream, Palazzo Contarini-Polignac, Venice, Italy

Passions Partagées. De Basquiat à Edith Piaf, la Collection Lambert au Mucem, MUCEM, Marseille, France

Backward Growing Tree in the Annex, Centraal Museum, Utrecht, Netherlands

ImPOSSIBLE, Museum Frieder Burda, Baden-Baden, Germany

I Feel You, Pinchuk Art Centre, Kyiv, Ukraine

What's the story?, KSMKA, Antwerp, Belgium

My World, Singer Laren, Laren, Netherlands

New collection presentation, De Pont, Tilburg, Netherlands

2023

David Caspar Friedrich. Kunst für eine neue Zeit, Kunsthalle Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany

A Theatre of Waiting, The Cloud Collection, Nanjing, China

h3h Biennale, Oosterhout, Netherlands

Out of the Box, Schaulager, Basel, Switzerland

Fragment of an Infinite Discourse, Lenbachhaus, Munich, Germany

Kafka: 1924, Villa Stuck, Munich, Germany

2022

FINIS TERRAE, The end. A beginning, Antwerp, Belgium

Les Fabriques du coeur et leur usage, MACS, Grand Hornu, Belgium

It Might be a Mirage, West, The Hague, Netherlands

Breathing, Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg, Germany

Uncombed, Unforeseen, Unconstrained, Conservatorio di Musica Benedetto Marcello, Venice, Italy

Mythos Wals, Kunsthalle Emden, Emden, Germany

Extended Present – Transient Realities, Ludwig Museum Budapest, Hungary

Traverser la Nuit, Museum of Art, Architecture and Technology, Lisbon, Portugal

Bienvenue dans le désert du réel, Collection Lambert, Avignon, France

2021

Kinderbiennale – Embracing Nature, Japanisches Palais, Dresden, Germany

Re-collect, FOMU fotomuseum, Antwerpen, Belgium

We are animals, Kunsthal, Rotterdam, Netherlands

100 Ways to Live a Minute, Pushkin Museum, Moscow, Russia

New Acquisitions, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Louisiana, United States

2020

Adelaide International, Samstag Museum, Adelaide, Australia

2. Biennale für aktuelle Fotografie, Germany

'Chapter 3HREE', Het HEM, Zaandam, Netherlands

A Long Time Short, KAI10 | Arthena Foundation, Düsseldorf, Germany

Pictures in motion, Kunstmuseum Winterthur, Switzerland

Memling Now: Hans Memling in contemporary art, Sint-Janshospitaal, Bruges, Belgium

Wild at heart, Kunsthaus Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland

2019

Anozero 19 – Coimbra Biennial of Contemporary Art, Coimbra, Portugal

Loop Festival 2019, Barcelona, Spain

Leading Light, Studio 3 Gallery, School of Arts, University of Kent, United Kingdom

Who Are You?, Maison des Arts, Schaerbeek, Belgium

Zeitraum, De Vishal, Haarlem, Netherlands

This is not a collection, PARCUM, Heverlee/Leuven, Belgium

Animalesque / Art Across Species and Beings, Bildmuseet, Umeå, Sweden

Fiction and Fabrication. Photography of Architecture After the Digital Turn, MAAT, Lisbon, Portugal

2018

Image Profile: Aspects of the Documentary in MMK's Photography Collection, MMK 2, Frankfurt, Germany

2017

WARTEN, Zwischen Macht und Möglichkeit, Hamburg Kunsthalle, Hamburg, Germany

Variable Dimensions – artists and architecture, MAAT, Lisbon, Portugal

Man as Bird. Images of Journeys, The Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts, Venice, Italy

The Image of War, Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden

Ways of Seeing, ARTER, Istanbul, Turkey

2016

RealTIME, Kunstmuseum Bonn, Germany

Magical Surfaces: The Uncanny in Contemporary Photography, Parasol Unit, London, United Kingdom

The Power of the Avant-Garde, BOZAR, Brussels, Belgium

Paradise on Earth. Landscapes from Bruegel to Rubens, Kunsthalle im Lipsiusbau, Dresden, Germany

2015

Future Present, Emanuel Hoffmann Foundation, Schaulager, Basel, Switzerland

RAY Fotografieprojekte, Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt and Louisiana Art Museum, Humlebæk, Denmark

Few Free Years: Von Absalon bis Zobernig, Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin, Germany

2014

Variation of the Moon, Nam June Paik Art Center, Gyeonggi-do, South Korea

You Imagine What You Desire, 19th Biennale of Sydney, Australia

L'Illusion des lumières, Palazzo Grassi, Venice, Italy

8th Busan Biennale, Busan, South Korea

Days of Endless Time, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C., United States

2013

Sharjah Biennial 11, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

The Red Queen, MONA Museum of Old and New Art, Hobart, Australia

More Light, 5th Moscow Biennale, Moscow, Russia

2012

7th Seoul International Media Art Biennale (Media City Seoul 2012), Seoul, South Korea

Spell on you, Seoul Museum of Art, South Korea

Museum Brandhorst, Munich, Germany

2011

The World Belongs to You, Palazzo Grassi, Venice, Italy

Fragments in Time and Space, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.

MMK 1991–2011, 20 Jahre Gegenwart, Museum of Modern Art, Frankfurt, Germany

2010

Fast Forward 2. The Power of Motion. Media Art Sammlung Goetz, ZKM – Museum of Modern Art, Karlsruhe, Germany

São Paulo Biennial, São Paulo, Brazil

2002

Galerie Yvon Lambert, Paris, France

Group Exhibition, Galerie Micheline Sz wajcer, Antwerp, Belgium

2001

Museum D'Hondt-Daenens, Deurle, Belgium

Unreal Time Video, Korean Art Foundation, Seoul, South Korea

Centre pour l'Image Contemporain, Geneva, Switzerland

Berlin Biennale 2001, Berlin, Germany

Videoserie in der Black Box, 6 Künstler – 6 Positionen, Sammlung Goetz, München, Germany

Touch me..., Cultural Centers Strombeek, Sint-Niklaas / Roeselare, Belgium

2000

Making Sense: Artist Curated Video Program, Contemporary Museum, Baltimore

Al'Opera. Un chant d'étoiles, La Monnaie, Brussels, Belgium

Le Grand Hornu, Mons, Belgium

Reflexive Figuration, Galerie Ferdinand Van Dieten, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Huis aan de Werf, Utrecht, Netherlands

Limerick City Gallery of Art, Limerick, Ireland

1999

Exhibition with Works from the Collection of the Flemish Community (cur. by Jan Hoet), Hallen / Bruges, Belgium

Trouble Spot Painting (cur. by Luc Tuymans and Narcisse Tordoir), Antwerp, Belgium

Nuevos Caminos (cur. by Manuel Olveira), Vigo, Galicia, Spain

FRI ART, Centre for Contemporary Art, Fribourg, Switzerland

Fotohof (with Dirk Braeckman and Elke Boon), Salzburg, Austria; Galerie Ferdinand Van Dieten, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Dis-Location, Dortmund, Germany, organized by Hartware Project with Montevideo

1998

Shed im Eisenwerk, Frauenfeld, Switzerland

Intimate Strangers (cur. by Christoph Doswald), Gallery By Night, Budapest, Hungary

I never promised you a rose garden, Beelden Buiten, Tiel, Belgium

1997

Watertoren CHK, Vlissingen, Netherlands

Pica en Flandes, Barcelona, Spain

Prix de la Jeune Peinture Belge, Palais des Beaux Arts, Brussels, Belgium

1996

Montevideo Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium

AWARDS AND PRIZES AND GRANTS

2010
Peill-Preis, Düren

2007
Will-Grohmann-Preis der Akademie der Künste, Berlin
Cultuurprijzen Vlaanderen, Beeldende Kunst

2002
DAAD, Berlin

PUBLICATIONS

Five Hours, Fifty Days, Fifty Years. Korschthal Esch. Flash Art, 2025

David Claerbout. Talbot Rice Gallery, Edinburgh. Tessa Giblin, James Clegg, 2018

David Claerbout. Kunsthaus Bregenz. Thomas D. Trummer (ed.), 2018

David Claerbout. OLYMPIA. KINDL/Sternberg Press, Berlin. Andreas Fiedler (ed.), 2017

David Claerbout. FRAC Auvergne. Jean-Charles Vergne, 2015

Shadow Pieces. David Claerbout. mamco, Geneva. Thierry Davila, 2015

David Claerbout. Drawings and studies. Hatje Cantz Verlag/Sean Kelly Gallery. Christian Viveros-Fauné, 2015

David Claerbout. MART Museo di arte moderna e contemporanea di Trento e Rovereto/Electa Publishers. Saretto Cincinelli; Philippe Dubois, 2012

Diese Sonne strahlt immer. Secession, Vienna. Peter Eeley, 2012

The Shape of Time. JRP Ringier/Centre Pompidou/MIT List Center of Visual Arts. Christine Van Assche (ed.), 2008

David Claerbout. uncertain eye. Pinakothek der Moderne, München. Inka Graeve Ingelmann (ed.), 2010

David Claerbout. A Prior, Brussels. Kunstverein Hannover (ed.), 2002

SELECTED PRESS

David Claerbout Doesn't Believe in the Arrow of Time. Spike Art Magazine, 2025

Künstler David Claerbout. «Du darfst dich nicht in die Technologie verlieben.» Monopol, October 20, 2025

La mesure du temps selon David Claerbout. Le Soir. Jean-Marie Wynants, July 8, 2025

'Utiliser le IA m'a révélé ma faiblesse.' La Libre Belgique. Aurore Vaucelle, June 18, 2025

Appropriate Behavior. Elephant Magazine, issue 30, Spring 2017

David Claerbout. Schaulager Basel. Spike, no 53. Elisa Lammer, 2017

David Claerbout on His Time Based 'Olympia' Installation. Sleek Magazine, 2016

David Claerbout: «I sculpt in duration.» Studio International. A Will Brown, May 2016

The Silence of the Lens. e-flux, no 73. David Claerbout, May 2016

The video, performed. ArtReview, London, September 2014

Achteruitkijken door de voorruit. Rekto Verso, no 62. Isolde Vanhee, June–September 2014

Obscurity and Stillness: Potentiality in the Moving Image. artjournal, Spring 2013. Catherine Fowler

Alte Meister, Von Neuen Geliebt: zu Jan Vermeers «Herr und Dame beim Wein.» Monopol, Berlin, June 2013

Interview with David Claerbout. mmk notes, RAY 2015 IMAGINE REALITY, June 5, 2015

David Claerbout. Q/A. Modern Painters, New York. David Ulrichs, May 2011

Wiesehen? AK Zeitschrift für Ästhetik und Allgemeine Kunstwissenschaft, vol 55, no 1. Raymond Bellour, 2010

Wie haben Sie das gemacht, David Claerbout? Monopol, no 7, July 2010

Ori Gersht puts five questions to David Claerbout. Modern Painters, London, May 2009

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

M HKA Antwerp
Julia Stoschek Collection
Goetz Collection
Angel Fondazione Morra Greco, Naples
Museum M Leuven

Emanuel Hoffmann Stiftung
Centre Pompidou Paris
Rennie Collection, Vancouver
Fondation Louis Vuitton
FNAC, Paris

Frac Auvergne
Kunst Museum Winterthur
De Pont museum of contemporary art, Tilburg
Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich
Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Brussels

FOMU Fotomuseum, Antwerp
Louisiana Museum of Modern Art
Bergen Art Museum, Norway
MAC's Hornu
MUDAM, Luxembourg

Galerie

Greta Meert

Bonnefanten Museum
Fondation Pinault
Vlaamse Gemeenschap, MUHKA, Antwerp
Galerie Neue Meister, Dresden
Fondation Antoine de Galbert, Maison Rouge

Boijmans van Beuningen
GAM Galleria d'Arte Moderna di Torino
Museum Brandhorst Munich
Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin
ARC, Paris

FRAC, Alsace
Kunstmuseum St Gallen
Kramlich Collection, San Francisco
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
CNAP, France

The Margulies Collection at the Städel Museum, Frankfurt
The Margulies Collection at the Warehouse
SMAK, Gent
Lenbachhaus, Munich
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden

La Monnaie, Brussels
Musée d'art contemporain, Strasbourg
MMK Frankfurt
Art Gallery of Ontario