

Press release

Charles-Henry Sommelette

731 Zeedijk
8300 Knokke

16.09 - 05.11.2023

Opening

Saturday 16.09.2023
4 - 8 pm

Greenkeeper

I've always drawn objects that represent winter, but only sporadically. I always kept in mind the idea of devoting a series of drawings or paintings to this kind of landscape at some point in the future.

When I was offered a second exhibition at the gallery, the idea of this series immediately came to as an obvious choice.

I wanted to dedicate myself to the ongoing and long-term observation of the gradually disappearing snow-covered landscapes of my childhood in Barvaux.

Most of the works in the exhibition are based on a series of photographs taken on the 2nd of April 2022 in and around my village. There had been heavy snowfall that day. I felt the urgent need to capture a meteorological phenomenon that wouldn't be so common in the coming years.

It was while I was creating this series that I had the idea of doing oil paintings. I was using charcoal with a brush to reproduce the texture of snow, navigating between shades of white, grey and black. That's when the temptation to create these textures with oils began to creep in.

I had already been working on large-scale paintings for the last four or five years, but they would invariably lead to failure, and I ended up destroying them.

It was during the month of November 2022 that I made another attempt, with greater peace of mind, and this time I produced three paintings.

As for the title, it was while I was sharing childhood memories with my family that I was reminded of an incident which gave me the title for a painting and for the exhibition. During a winter walk along a road that passed through a field that would become the Barvaux golf course, we were overtaken by a car that collided into a snowman up ahead.

And probably ever since that moment, I've held a particular fondness for those ephemeral guardians.

- Charles-Henry Sommelette

Baronian

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Charles-Henry Sommelette (b. 1984, Liège) lives and works in Barvaux-sur-Ourthe in Belgium. He received his Master in visual arts at Académie Royale des Beaux-Arts de Liège and a post-graduate degree in plastic, visual and spatial arts at École Supérieure des Arts de la Ville de Liège. Recent solo exhibitions include *Off Road*, Baronian Xippas, Brussels (2021), *Prix découverte 2020*, Centre d'Art de Rouge Cloître, Auderghem (2021), *Tracés de l'absence*, Espace 251 Nord, Liège (2016), *Espace jeune artiste*, Musée d'Art Moderne et d'Art Contemporain (MAMAC), Liège (2010). He recently figured in the following group exhibitions : *En Piste !*, La Boverie, Liège (2019), *Jardins des contes*, L'Orangerie, espace d'art contemporain, Bastogne (2018), *Prix Jeune Création*, Beaux-Arts de Paris (2018) and *Paysage de Belgique*, Musée d'Ixelles, Brussels (2015).