

Baronian

Press Release

Rue Isidore Verheyden 2
1050 Brussels

14.11 - 21.12.2024

Opening

Thursday 14.11
6 - 9 pm

Robert Devriendt THE MISSING SCRIPT Fête Solitaire

It is with great pride and emotion that we present to you the very last exhibition of Galerie Baronian, which will permanently close its doors on December 21, 2024. We thus bring to a close Albert Baronian's 51 years of gallery history with a solo exhibition by Robert Devriendt.

For many years, Devriendt has been working on *THE MISSING SCRIPT*, an ongoing project composed of small series of paintings. Here, he presents the next chapter of this story, titled *Fête solitaire*.

Devriendt drew inspiration for this series during nature walks, repeatedly following the same route. What caught his attention most were not the natural elements themselves, but the disruptions within them, such as a discarded perfume bottle or a parked car with its lights on. These observations unconsciously led him to the *fêtes galantes* of Watteau. While he initially intended to depict a festive scene in a forest, his works ultimately present only isolated figures. Details such as fast cars, a deserted highway, a crushed can, or a fluorescent light in the grass next to an abandoned high-heeled shoe are the only clues hinting at a possible celebration.

Devriendt's suggestive series do not convey a clear meaning, inviting viewers to draw their own connections and create a fragmented narrative. The exhibition offers visitors an active role in imagining a story that unfolds on the border between reality and fantasy. Each painting, each series, stands as an individual fragment of a larger, mysterious whole.

Devriendt's work is distinguished by a captivating blend of cinematic qualities and refined painting. His series of paintings evoke the atmosphere of a film trailer, carrying an underlying sense of drama. He employs montage techniques and visual codes drawn from modern visual culture, which influence our perception of reality. Elements such as *mise-en-scène*, props, and references to specific film genres—such as *film noir*—are central to his art. At the same time, his work is reminiscent of Flemish painting, with a particular focus on the tactile quality of the depicted subjects. This diversity lends his oeuvre a depth that invites prolonged contemplation.

In addition to being a visual artist, Robert Devriendt is also the author of two novels: *Maximes Obsessie* (2021) and *Het Intieme Interview* (2024), both published by Borgerhoff & Lamberigts. Through these books, readers gain direct insight into the life of an artist.

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Robert Devriendt (1955, Bruges, BE) lives and works in Bruges. Works from the series *THE MISSING SCRIPT* have been exhibited in solo exhibitions at Baronian (Brussels, BE) and Xippas (Geneva, CH). Other solo shows include exhibitions with Galerie Loevenbruck (Paris, FR), Mocak (Krakow, PL), Groeningemuseum (Bruges, BE), Galerie Marlborough Fine Art (London, UK), Museum M (Leuven, BE), Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens (Deurle, BE) and Martha Herford Museum (Herford, DE). Robert Devriendt's work was featured in group exhibitions at Z33 (Hasselt, BE), Galerie Loevenbruck (Paris), Galerie RSF (Paris), Galleria Mucciaccia (Rome, IT), Belgian Gallery (Namur, BE), Verbeke Foundation (Kemzeke, BE), S.M.A.K. (Ghent, BE), M_KHA (Antwerp, BE), Galerie Sofie Van de Velde (Antwerp), MuZEE (Ostend, BE), Museum M (Leuven), the National Art Museum of China (Beijing, CN), Palais des Beaux-Arts (Brussels) and the KMSKA (Antwerp). Public collections include MOCAM Museum of Contemporary Art (Krakow), 21C Museum (Louisville, US), S.M.A.K. (Ghent), National Bank of Belgium (Brussels) among others.