



PRESS RELEASE

SOLO SHOW GEORGE DE DECKER Pli SELON Pli

14 MARCH – 30 APRIL 2021

Husk Gallery is delighted to present *Pli selon pli*, George De Decker's first exhibition at the gallery. The Belgian painter and composer is exhibiting two series of paintings, accompanied by his recent musical composition *Wit in wit*. In 2020, the artist worked intensively on the seventeen paintings of his *Denn das Schöne ist nichts als des Schrecklichen Anfang* series, which can be seen together with his *Pli selon pli* series from 2016.

For his latest series, the artist came across the 'shadows of Hiroshima' through the work of Amélie Nothomb and Marguerite Duras. These are imprints of bodies and objects burned by the atomic bomb. He shows that something beautiful can emerge from something terrible, as expressed in the line *Denn das Schöne ist nichts als des Schrecklichen Anfang* from Rainer Maria Rilke's elegy.

George De Decker deliberately chooses abstraction in his paintings. By the way, you can also take the title of the exhibition, *Pli selon pli* – 'Fold by Fold', literally. In both series, he works with Chinese rice paper, as well as oil paint and acrylic. Each 'painting' involves weaving paint and painted strips of these wafer-thin, transparent sheets. He experimented with surfaces and lines that disappear and reappear, until he finally reached a composition that finds its own balance and binds canvas and paper into an inseparable whole. There is always an abundance of whites, only rarely does he let his prototypical blue take over.

When creating in his studio, the artist always listens carefully to specific music. During *Denn das Schöne ist nichts als des Schrecklichen Anfang* (2020), he was led by the rhythm and melody of Thomas Adès' *Totentanz*. *Pli selon pli* (2016) was created to the sounds of Pierre Boulez's eponymous piece of music (after a poem by Stéphane Mallarmé). De Decker continually interweaves music and visual art into an interferential whole. He translates pieces of music and texts into an abstract visual language with an almost monochrome palette, in which he subtly reveals his sensitivity to layering and variations.

During this solo show, the visual work is deliberately accompanied by a sound set, composed by De Decker himself: *Wit in wit* – *White in White*, his 2019 poetic interpretation of Bach's Goldberg Variations, for piano and sound tape. The *Pli selon pli* series is a kind of substantive precedent for this. He then transposed the reduction to the essence and the search for endless variations of white in white tones into a score.

George De Decker is a versatile visual artist, who prefers to make series of works. Each work stands alone, yet is also part of a whole. He chooses the titles, often literary and always quoted in the original language, of his series with the greatest care. They reveal his great affinity for poetry and literature. Besides paintings and musical compositions, he also makes sculptures, video and sound installations.

Short CV

George De Decker (°1951, Asse, Belgium) is a visual artist and composer who lives and works in Sint-Katelijne-Waver. He studied piano, composition and art history at the Royal Conservatory in Antwerp and Brussels, electronic music at IPEM in Ghent and painting in Anderlecht. Besides solo work (mainly with sound tape) and works for a large symphonic orchestra and sound installations, he also composed music for film, television and theatre. As from 2008 his paintings have featured in many solo, duo and group exhibitions in Belgium and The Netherlands. De Decker also created large mixed media installation projects including 'Ørnen 1897' (2013), a gigantic wooden zeppelin installation in which he combined fine art, music and film and 'Le bruit de la pensée' (2014), permanent site-specific installation works for the prison complex in Leuzen-Hainaut (BE) consisting of 4 sculptures, a large stained glass and 2 paintings. In 2016 he founded the music ensemble SP!TSBERGEN. His latest composition *Wit in Wit Goldberg Variations Revisited* (2019) is released on CD and in the near future it will be performed by pianist Geert Callaert in several concert halls.

The monograph *George De Decker - Pli selon pli* (2020) and the CD *Wit in Wit* (2019) are available at the gallery.

Opening Sunday 14 March 2021 from 2 to 7 pm

Opening hours: Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 1 pm to 6 pm and by appointment

Address: Husk Gallery, Rivoli Building ground floor, Chaussée de Waterloo 690 #12, 1180 Brussels

For further inquiries: info@huskgallery.com – Tel. +32 478 52 16 46 – www.huskgallery.com

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