



PRESS RELEASE

GROUP SHOW DIALOGUES

PETER DEPELCHIN x JUANAN SORIA

GEORGE DE DECKER x NATHALIE PIROTTE

14 MAY – 8 JULY 2023

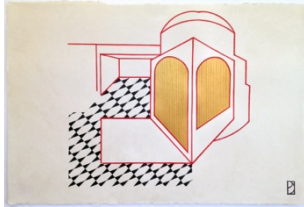
DIALOGUES



Husk Gallery is delighted to present 'Dialogues', a group exhibition in which two artists enter into an artistic dialogue in one room. While drawings by Peter Depelchin and Juanan Soria are presented on the ground floor, paintings by George De Decker and Nathalie Pirotte interact on the upper floor. Face-to-face conversations about the artistic creation process, sources of inspiration, material supports, space creation, figuration, and abstraction, among other things, underpin the exhibition.

PETER DEPELCHIN X JUANAN SORIA

Contemporaries **Peter Depelchin** and **Juanan Soria** share not only a great fondness for work on paper, but also for art and cultural history. Both artists create their coherent oeuvres through preliminary research. Their installation on the ground floor is a complementary artistic dialogue about **space and time**.



Peter Depelchin (°1985, Oostende) spends a lot of time creating space in his drawings. His series **Gardens** draws on his research into spatial representation in visual art, as a kind of premise for mixing illusion and reality, just as in theatre. However, no narrative can be detected in these drawings. The spatial representation defies classical Western perspective and offers few references due to the simultaneous views. These types of conceptual space are also found in his earlier 'Hortus Conclusus' series. His **Maelström** drawings literally depict infinite space with astrophysical phenomena. This universe free of gravitational force is a great source of inspiration for Peter Depelchin.



In **Juanan Soria's** (°1985, Ubeda) oeuvre, time plays an important role. In his series 'Destroy to build', he draws inspiration from the marks left by the destruction of artefacts. The history of the material object up to the present is the starting point of his artistic research. In the series **Disaparicion** (shredded or erased drawings) and **Cenizas de Marmol** (a drawing on crumpled paper), Soria focuses on works of art by old masters or artefacts that have disappeared, been damaged, or even completely destroyed. The fluorescent red back of the paper is an integral part of his art, symbolising both the act of aggression and the fragility of the artefact.



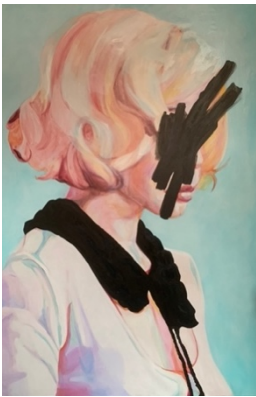
Photo 1: Peter Depelchin, A Garden VII, 2020, ink on Gampi Torinoko paper, 52x75 cm; Photo 2: Juanan Soria, Desaparicion II, 2018, pencil and acrylic on paper, 29x23x1cm; Photo 3: Installation view ground floor : Maelström drawings by Peter Depelchin and oil paintings by Juanan Soria

GEORGE DE DECKER X NATHALIE PIROTTE

Painting forms the obvious interface between **Nathalie Pirotte and George De Decker**, which spontaneously leads to a dialogue on figuration versus abstraction. While Nathalie Pirotte stands out with her portraits of women, George De Decker creates a timeless universe in which the human figure is invariably missing.



George De Decker's (°1951, Asse) series **Incises** arose while the artist was listening to Pierre Boulez's eponymous music compositions. The large yellow plane of **Incises** is interrupted by a rough incision, while in the smaller formats **Sur incises** a sharp straight cut divides the plane into zones and suggests a corner in an interior. In these painterly compositions, he creates imaginary spaces, with staggered walls creating mysterious gaps and atmospheric fields of colour. In his new series of abstract paintings, De Decker once again interweaves music and visual art into a harmonious and enigmatic composition, creating an immersive space for the viewer.



Nathalie Pirotte's (°1965, Albertville) portraits of women are characterised by the absence of their gaze. In **Prise de vue**, for example, she literally hides the model's identity in each portrait by covering the eyes with pasty layers of paint. The tags or highlights manifest themselves as abstract marks on the relatively carefully painted images of women, as a reminder of the painter's gestural act. Can we even speak of individual portraits here? In **Tags blancs**, she even paints the figure with her mirror image. Nathalie Pirotte always places her models against a plain abstract background, directing our gaze to the construction of her female figure.



Photo 1: George De Decker, *Sur incises III*, 2023, oil on canvas, 100x90 cm; Photo 2: Nathalie Pirotte, *Prise de vue*, 2023, oil on canvas, 110x90cm; Photo 3: Installation view upper floor: oil paintings from the *Sur incises* series by George De Decker and *Tags* series by Nathalie Pirotte

SHORT CV ARTISTS DIALOGUES

PETER DEPELCHIN



Peter Depelchin (b 1985, Ostend, Belgium) lives and works in Brussels. He has been very busy on the national and international art scene, with residencies in The Netherlands (Stichting IK, Vlissingen 2008-2009), in Italy (Academia Belgica, Rome 2014-2015), in the USA (Residency Unlimited, New York, 2015-2016) and in Belgium (tamat, Tournai 2022). Each of these residencies led to exhibitions in The Netherlands, in Rome and in New

York. He was invited to exhibit in Brussels (Kasteel van Gaasbeek, La Vallée) and in London (Young Masters). Furthermore he was declared Drawing and Contemporary art laureate in several national art prizes, among which *Input-Output* (Bruges, 2007), *Grote Prijs Ernest Albert voor Tekenkunst* (Mechelen, 2016) and *Prix Elisabeth Burdot* (2022). Peter Depelchin presented two solo shows at Husk Gallery: *The Great God Pan* (2020) and *Mystic Heated Wine beyond the Event Horizon* (2022). Currently, Peter Depelchin's double show *Hommage à Pan* is on view at Chateau Thozée in Mettet (22.04>02.08.2023), and at Musée Rops, Namur (27.05>17.09.2023). In 2021 the artist's monograph *Peter Depelchin 2014-2021* was published by Husk Gallery. The exhibition catalogue *Hommage à Pan – Peter Depelchin* is published in May 2023 by Stichting Kunstboek.

JUANAN SORIA



Juanan Soria (°1985, Ubeda, Spain) grew up in Andalusia. Currently, he lives and works in Ghent, Belgium. Beside painting and drawing, he creates installations and video work. He obtained a BA of Fine Arts at the University of Sevilla and a MA of Art Production at the Polytechnic University of Valencia. The Spanish artist completed several residencies, among others in Cordoba, Madrid and Ubeda, that led to exhibitions. Furthermore, he was declared laureate in

several Spanish art prizes, in the field of painting and video art. Since 2013, he has been busy on the Belgian art scene among which solo shows in Ghent and several group shows. In 2022 his first solo show *Crear capas* was on view at Husk Gallery. Recently, he was awarded with the Third Prize of the *Art Contest 2021* edition in Brussels, followed by his solo show *The Enemies of Memory* in 2023 at Carrefour des Arts in Brussels. His artworks are included in diverse public collections in Spain.

GEORGE DE DECKER



George De Decker (°1951, Asse) is a visual artist and music 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* (2013-2022), 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 Leuze-en-Hainaut (BE) consisting of four sculptures, a large stained glass and two paintings. In 2016 he founded the music ensemble SP!TSBERGEN. His composition *Wit in Wit Goldberg Variations Revisited* (2019) is released on CD and performed by pianist Geert Callaert in several concert halls. Husk Gallery presented two solo shows: *Pli selon pli* (2020) and *Contrapunctus* (2022). His monograph *George De Decker - Pli selon pli* is published in 2020.

NATHALIE PIROTTE



Nathalie Pirotte (°1965, Albertville) is a Belgian painter who lives and works in Brussels. She completed her Master in Painting and 3D Research in La Cambre, Brussels. In the past years her work has featured in solo shows in Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany. In 2020 Husk Gallery presented *Pretty Chimeras*, her inaugural solo exhibition at the gallery. Recently in 2023, her extensive solo show *Montré-Caché* was on view in the

Alter Schlachthof in Eupen. She has also taken part in numerous group exhibitions in Belgium and abroad. Her work can be found in the following collections: Communauté française de Belgique, Unisys, BSB (B), Town of Ettelbruck (GDL), City of Dudelange (GDL), City of Luxembourg (GDL), Sanrio (It) and in private collections in Europe, the United States and Australia. Since 1995, Nathalie Pirotte is also working as a painting teacher at the Arlon Academy of Fine Arts in Belgium.

Opening Sunday 14 May 2023 from 2 to 7 pm in the presence of the artists

Rivoli Open Sunday 4 June 2023 from 2 to 6 pm

Opening hours during exhibition: Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 2 to 6 pm or by appointment

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