

# artbrusselsWEEK

Online Viewing Room  
by Artsy  
1-14 June 2021

Contemporary Art  
Gallery Tour  
3-6 June 2021

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Caption: Nele Verhaeren, Co-director Art Brussels, Alexia van Eyll, Director Nino Mier Gallery Brussels, Anne Vierstraete, Managing director Art Brussels, at Nino Mier Gallery, Brussels, 2021

Because of the pandemic, fairs cannot yet take place in Belgium and therefore the Art Brussels fair created an alternative: The Art Brussels WEEK. Art Brussels 2021 appears in a newly adapted format: during the Art Brussels WEEK, both **off-** and **online** gallery shows will be available to the public. The shows will be on display in various gallery spaces in a number of cities, and on the Art Brussels Online Viewing Room (OVR) hosted by Artsy.

Because of the lockdown, the Art Brussels WEEK had to be postponed, from the end of April to the beginning of June. The shows in the galleries will be open to visitors, in person, from Thursday 3 June until Sunday 6 June. The OVR will be available from Monday 1 June until Monday 14 June.

The Art Brussels WEEK celebrates about 110 shows running in various gallery spaces. Aided by digital city maps of Brussels, Paris, Antwerp and Knokke, the visitor will be able to prepare his/her gallery itinerary. Galleries from other areas will also be included in this event. An overview of the running shows and the city maps is available on the website.

Most of the galleries in Belgium and Paris have extended their opening hours and will organise open doors on Sunday 6 June.

Many Belgium based galleries have scheduled their premium shows during the Art Brussels WEEK, so their presence signifies a special highlight. 70% of the Belgian galleries have opted to stage a solo show. Some have chosen, in accordance with their usual booth presentation at the fair, to display a group show based on a particular theme.

Anne Vierstraete, Managing Director, states:

*“Our mission at Art Brussels is to initiate encounters between art produced by serious artists, whether they be upcoming or established, and a broad public which comprises those starting to engage with contemporary art, as well as an extensive group of Belgian and international collectors. Art Brussels benefits from a loyal audience and we believe it makes sense to set up a global initiative, both off- and online, which encourages the galleries to address an exciting new body of artworks to a group of collectors which are known for looking outside the boundaries of typical commercial art. By setting up the OVR on Artsy, the galleries can rely on Artsy’s highly performant technological platform and the internationally developed scope of truly interested online subscribers, thus allowing the galleries participating in the Art Brussels OVR to reach out to a wider collector base. Nothing can replace the physical encounter with an artwork and its lively appreciation, and this is especially true of works by artists which are still up and coming. The OVR will hopefully be a way to connect art lovers with some of the 110 Art Brussels galleries in the cities where they are located, by encouraging, whenever possible, some new local connections directly in the gallery spaces for people wanting to see the works in the flesh.”*

Nele Verhaeren, Co-Director of Art Brussels comments:

*“Followers of our Instagram account might have noticed! The creativity and the activity of the Art Brussels gallery scene is just incredible, despite the pandemic. There was time to reflect. Some galleries relocated, expanded with new spaces or were trying out different models in order to defend their artists in the best possible way. We are proud to offer an alternative and to promote the creativity of the gallery community who have been on board with us since the outbreak of the pandemic. About 50% of the participating galleries decided to align their gallery show with the online offer on Artsy. The Art Brussels Instagram already reveals what to expect; a great variety of art works with different techniques from artists all over the world going from established names to artists to be discovered or rediscovered. The galleries were selected 17 months ago by the Art Brussels International Selection Committee; the offer here is a carte blanche by these galleries. The OVR by Artsy offers the possibility to filter on the discipline and will throw a view on current topics such as diversity, inclusivity and equality, identity, or reflections on the lockdown.”*

We focus on three Belgian cities in this press release because of the high concentration of galleries in these particular spots.

## **FOCUS BRUSSELS**

Art Brussels has been running since 1968; judging from its name, it is no surprise that there is a special focus on the Brussels art scene. 39 Brussels galleries appear on the city map. Guided tours will be available during the weekend of 5-6 June.

## **New gallery spaces and initiatives to discover:**

During the pandemic, two overseas gallerists decided to open an art space near the Sablon in Brussels. The Brazilian gallery **Jaqueline Martins** opened a beautiful space in rue aux Laines 14 on the ground floor of a townhouse with views of a cosy city garden. The gallery represents many Brazilian talents and strategically chose Brussels to be in closer dialogue with an interesting and critically important European artistic scene. During the Art Brussels WEEK, the gallery opening is scheduled on Saturday 5 June, with a solo presentation of *Daniel de Paula*. This young American artist lives and works in São Paulo and Amsterdam. His work is mainly sculptural; strategies such as appropriation, displacement and decontextualization of everyday objects are commonly applied. *Daniel de Paula's* work throws an analytical view on our society through notions of geographical, geological, historical and also socio-political structures.

The second overseas gallery, opening their doors in Brussels, is based in the rue Ernest Allard 25. **Nino Mier**, a gallerist from Los Angeles with European roots, represents a mixed programme of both American and European artists, mainly painters. **Nino Mier** will exhibit a solo presentation by *Mindy Shapero* with her typical psychedelic paintings, created in series and two sculptural works.

Furthermore, there are three Brussels gallerists who also opened new permanent gallery spaces during the pandemic. Brussels based gallerist **Harlan Levey** recently opened his second permanent gallery space. The renovated warehouse of 250m<sup>2</sup> is located in Molenbeek and will carry the name HLP1080. This space includes a gallery space, the artist studio of *Emmanuel Van der Auwera* and a designer atelier on the second floor. The inaugural show, entitled "Slash & Burn II", is a solo presentation by the Polish artist *Marcin Dudek*. Besides this space, **Harlan Levey Projects** turns its Ixelles gallery into HLP1050 where Levey will present a duo show by *Willehad Eilers* and *Philip Mueller* in collaboration with the Carbon.12 gallery from Dubai. The second Brussels gallery opening, and an impressive space, is **Sorry We're Closed**. At the end of May and on the eve of the Art Brussels week, Sébastien Janssen, the gallery owner, will move his gallery to a beautiful 19<sup>th</sup> century manor with an impressive central stairway in the rue des Minimes 39. The inaugural show features *Anastasia Bay*, a young french artist whose work explores tormented robust figures on canvas as if they are in full motion. The third gallery, **Stems Gallery**, moved to a new space in the rue Prince Albert 4 a couple of months ago. This rather 'cool' gallery attracts a much younger crowd. **Stems** presents a group show, titled 'Take My Breath Away'. There is work on display by *Julien Boudet*, *Aryo Toh Djojo*, *Dhewadi Hadjab*, *Dan Mandelbaum*, *MarieVic*, *Tyrrell Winston* and *Allison Zuckerman*.

On the occasion of the Art Brussels WEEK, a few Art Brussels galleries decided to open a temporary space in Brussels. **Ron Mandos** from Amsterdam turns the Brussels artist's studio of *Hans Op de Beeck* into a solo show of the artist. The sculptural work and drawings by *Op de Beeck* are drenched in a sort of melancholy. **Nadja Vilenne** from Liège will open a pop-up duo show close to neighbour **Nino Mier** in the Rue Ernest Allard 18. She will show work by the poetical draughtsman *Benjamin Monti* and the surrealistic sculptor *Jacques Lizène*. In Schaerbeek, slightly further removed from the gallery districts, former gallerist **Simon Delobel** will show a one-off presentation titled "*Personne*

*n'en veut, j'achète*" by Jacques André and Naoki Karathanassis. In his work, Jacques André criticizes, in a witty and humoristic way, the system of the art market. **Schönfeld Gallery** opens a second pop up space in Brussels with a presentation of the Belgian rediscovery painter *Albert Pepermans*. **LMNO Gallery** opens her second new space, exclusively upon appointment. Work by *Marie Friberg* will be on view in **LMNO Conciergerie**, located near the Abbey of La Cambre in the Av. Emile de Mot.

## A highlight per gallery district in Brussels:

### Louise-South:

There is a high concentration of galleries near rue de l'Abbaye. **Xavier Hufkens**, who has since decades been based in this neighbourhood, can be seen as the motor behind this successful gallery district. Hufkens presents a show by *Lesley Vance*, the winner of the Solo Prize of the last edition of Art Brussels, in 2019. **Almine Rech**, who represents multiple galleries in cities like New York, Hong Kong, Paris, and London presents the painter *Huang Yuxing* from Beijing. His colourful, abstracted landscapes appear at first sight to be the result of an expressive art process. The meticulous brushstrokes and the well defined intense colour pallet on the other hand, give away a high degree of sense of detail.

At **Maruani Mercier**, a group show entitled "Protect Me From What I Want" will open during the Art Brussels WEEK, including work by *Jonathan Lasker*. **Meessen De Clercq** stages the solo show, "Toi et nous" by *Thu Van Tran*, a Vietnamese artist living and working in Paris, who is known for her large scale immersive, contemplative, abstract and two-dimensional works using a variety of techniques.

In the second space of **Xavier Hufkens**, located at walking distance, the gallerist presents *Cathy Wilkes*, mostly known for her largescale installations. In 2019 *Wilkes* represented Great Britain at the 58<sup>th</sup> Biennale of Venice showing these installations. In her recent work, painting takes a more prominent position in her practice. A few other Art Brussels galleries are based in the same building. **Hopstreet Gallery** presents the show "Pars Pro Toto" by the Belgian artist *Johan De Wilde*. **Zwart Huis** sets up two shows in two different spaces, one across from the other, by the Belgian artists *Jan Vanriet* and *Sigrid Tanghe*. **Rossicontemporary** stages four solo presentations with *Guillermo Martin Bermejo*, *Patrick Crulis*, *Oraura (Lore Vanelslande)* and *Christophe Terlinden*.

**Other gallery shows worth mentioning: Irène Laub Gallery** with *José Pedro Croft*, **LMNO Conciergerie** (mentioned above – section new spaces), **MLF I Marie-Laure Fleisch Gallery** with *Julie Legrand*, **OV Project** with *Jean-François Octove*, **Schönfeld Gallery** with *Albert Pepermans*.

### Châtelain district:

**Bernier/Eliades** displays work by the American artist *Jeffrey Vallance*. His work has a pseudo-anthropological, sometimes humoristic approach exploring themes of faith, rituals, folklore and geopolitical landscapes. A display of conceptual research conducted between 1978 and 1979 will be presented, detailing an intriguing correspondence between the artist and 47 world leaders.

### Other gallery shows worth mentioning:

**Super Dakota**, a group show with *Math Bass*, *Baptiste Caccia*, *Sarah Derat*, *Cai Zebin*, *Aleksandra Domanović*, *Gareth Long*, *Isaac Lythgoe*, *Paul McCarthy*, *Real Madrid*, *Asha Schechter* and *Julia Wachtel*. **Galerie Michel Rein**, a group show with *Mariana Bunimov*, *Michele Ciacciofera*, *Piero Gilardi*, *Enrique Ramirez*, *Edgar Sarin*, *Franck Scurti*, *Agnès Thurnauer* and *Sophie Whettnall*.

**Nathalie Obadia**, a group show with, among others, *Laure Prouvost*, *Joris Van de Moortel*, *Robert Kushner* and *Guillaume Leblon*.

## Louise North

**Baronian Xippas** showcases *Wang Du*, an established Chinese sculptor living and working in Paris. *Wang Du* is known for staging hyper realistic scenes as if they were snapshots capturing a frozen moment. **Galerie Templon** shows work by the Japanese artist *Chiharu Shiota*, known for her immersive installations with webs made from strings.

The gallery **rodolphe janssen**, with his great love for painting, chooses to show a solo presentation of the young Flemish artist *Lisa Vlaemminck*. With a colourful palette and flattened brush strokes, she paints vegetal motives as if they appear on a screen. In his second gallery space across the street, Janssen presents work of the French rediscovery artist *Roger-Edgar Gillet*.

**Other gallery shows worth mentioning:** **Baronian Xippas**, a group show with *Aline Bouvy*, *Wang Du*, *Mekhitar Garabedian*, *Larissa Lockshin*, *Zoë Paul*, *Tessa Perutz* and *Ry Rocklen*. **LMNO** with *Denicolai & Provoost*. **Stems Gallery**, a group show (see above – section new spaces)

## Sablon

The Sablon gallery district is *en vogue*. As mentioned, Belgian gallery **Sorry We're Closed** will move into an imposing mansion in this area just before the Art Brussels WEEK. As explained above, the Sablon became the attraction pole for two overseas galleries who recently opened their gallery space here, namely **Nino Mier** and **Jaqueline Martins**. **Gladstone Gallery** from New York followed by the Brazilian gallery **Mendes Wood DM** paved the way for this emergence several years ago.

**Gladstone Gallery** shows a solo presentation with work by the American artist *Jim Hodges*, who is working with a large range of techniques, from ready-made objects to more traditional media such as graphite and ink. Using a poetic vocabulary, he explores themes such as fragility, temporality, love, and death. **Mendes Wood DM** stages a solo presentation of the Brazilian artist *Antonio Obá*, whose work refers to Brazilian cultural identity and its contradictions by questioning the eroticization of the black male body and the construction of his own identity. In the rue Ernest Allard, not too far from **Nino Mier** and **Nadja Vilenne's** temporary pop-up gallery space, **Laurentin Gallery** is located. **Laurentin** mounts a solo presentation of the French abstract painter *Geneviève Asse*.

## Downtown

The gallery **Greta Meert** presents two shows: one by the British painter *James White* and one by the Belgian sculptor *Didier Vermeiren*. *Vermeiren* is intrigued by the plinth as a sculptural element. *James White* translates snapshots of his surroundings; the poetry of everyday becomes the subject in his paintings that look like black-and-white photographs. On the occasion of the Art Brussels WEEK, the gallery will also install a dedicated viewing room with new works by *Nathalie Du Pasquier*. **dépendance** stages a solo presentation of the German artist *Thilo Heinzman* with recent creations; this involves a series of pigment paintings and a few three-dimensional wall pieces. While doing the tour it is worth mentioning **Harlan Levey Projects** again who opens a second gallery space in Molenbeek with *Marcin Dudek* on the occasion of the Art Brussels WEEK. **Ballon Rouge** shows a solo presentation by the New York based artist *Samuel Jablon*, a painter whose love for poetry is clearly felt in the rendering of his canvasses.

### **Other highlights in Brussels gallery shows that are worth mentioning:**

**C L E A R I N G**, a group show with *Harold Ancart, Jean-Marie Appriou, Koenraad Dedobbeleer, Valerie Keane, Sveta Mordovskaya, Marina Pinsky, Loïc Raguénès* and *David Weiss*. **Damien & the Love Guru** with *Vanessa Disler*. **Dauwens & Beernaert** with *Quinten Ingelaere*. **DVIR Gallery** with *Jonathon Monk*. **La Forest Divonne** with *Samuel Yal*. **La Maison de Rendez-vous (organised by Park View / Paul Solo)** with *Andy Giannakakis*.

### **FOCUS on ANTWERP**

14 Antwerp galleries participate in the Art Brussels WEEK. Most of them are based in the southern region of the city.

The impressive, museum-like gallery space of **Tim Van Laere** will be home to the paintings of *Friedrich Kunath*. This German painter lives and works in Los Angeles and is known for his melancholic, romantic canvases depicting an imaginary world – something we could all use today. A stone's throw away, one enters the shared gallery space of **Sofie Van de Velde** and **Plus One Gallery**. Both galleries stage a duo presentation of Belgian artists, one painter and one sculptor. At **Sofie Van de Velde**, works by the abstract painter *Stef Driesen* and the sculptor and installation artist *Leon Vranken* will be shown. **Plus One Gallery** shows work by the young painter *Ritsart Gobyn*, who creates optical illusions in his abstract works, together with ceramic sculptures by *Sharon Van Overmeiren*, that are loaded with symbolic references to different cultures and religions. **Everyday Gallery**, situated in-between **Sofie Van de Velde** and **Tim Van Laere**, stages two shows: '*Crystal Whisper*', a solo presentation with works by *Jacopo Pagin*, and '*History of Fantasy*', a group show by a tight knit group of artists, selected by curator *Emmanuelle Luciani* (Southway Studio, Marseille) with work by, among others, *Laure Prouvost, Jean-Marie Appriou, Ariana Papademetropoulos, Raphaela Vogel* and *Daan Gielis*.

On the occasion of the Art Brussels WEEK, **Zeno X** will re-open his original gallery space located at the Leopold Dewael Place across from the Royal Museum of Fine Arts. The show is a unique group presentation including *Pélagie Gbaguidi, Kees Goudzwaard, Mark Manders, Philip Metten* and *Luc Tuymans*. Works by *Luc Tuymans* will also be on view in the main gallery space of **Zeno X** in Borgerhout, where his solo show '*Seconds*' will be staged. Behind the corner in its South Antwerp space, **Keteleer Gallery** mounts '*Red and Blue Barricade*', a show with conceptual work by *Luc Deleu & T.O.P. Office* featuring architectural and design elements. In the same space, the debut show of French painter *Benjamin Moravec* is on view.

**De Zwarte Panter, valerie\_traan** and **Gallery Fifty One** are slightly removed from the other galleries and based closer to Antwerp city hall. **Gallery Fifty One** will present two shows. One is a duo presentation, titled "*Capturing Life*", with works by *Vivian Maier* and *Stephan Vanfleteren*. The result is a dialogue between two photographers of a very different place and time, that have one thing in common: fiercely capturing life and all its facets. In the neighboring second gallery space, **Fifty One Too**, an exclusive presentation by *William Klein* will be on display with nine large platinum photographic works, - the only one produced. **Valerie\_traan** presents a show by *Frederic Geurts* and *John Van Oers*. Both artists have a visual language that converges, not only in the execution of line, but also in the embrace of coincidence and doubt, the minimal, and the humorous.

Close to the Leopold Square, **Geukens & De Vil** sets up the exhibition '*The Innerworld of the Outerworld of the Innerworld*' from the German painter *Julius Heinemann*, who lives and works in

London and Berlin. The artist is fascinated by the perception of an image. The gallery **Annie Gentils** presents work by the Belgian installation artist *Stefaan Dheedene*.

**Axel Vervoordt Gallery** is located in an impressive industrial complex at the canal in Wijnegem, a 15-minute drive from Antwerp. Vervoordt mounts a group presentation "On View at Kanaal" with work by *Ida Barbarigo, Lucia Bru, Markus Brunetti, Peter Buggenhout, Kimsooja, Germaine Kruij, Michel Mouffe, Renato Nicolodi, Bosco Sodi, Dominique Stroobant, and Yun Hyong-keun*. Furthermore, the solo exhibition "Les Belles Idées Reçues" by *Angel Vergara* will be on view. Vergara is a multidisciplinary artist whose work comprises performances, video art, installations, paintings, and drawings. He decontextualises images in order to present them in a new kind of reality that is highly aestheticizing, but that is equally loaded with socio-cultural and political connotations. The sculptor *Otto Boll*, who operates from an expressly minimalist sensibility, also has a solo exhibition at Axel Vervoordt Gallery. His sculptures seem to be lines drawn in the air.

**Other gallery shows worth mentioning:** **Base Alpha** with *Gianin Conrad*. **Callewaert Vanlangendonck** with *Daems van Remoortere* and *Ayrton Eblé*. **Fred & Ferry** with *Leyla Aydoslu*. **Pedrami Gallery** with a group show with *Mohammed Alani, Salam Ata Sabri, Nasser Bakhshi, Mohammad Barrangi, Eileen Cohen Sussholz, Gil & Moti, Haider Jabbar, Wendy Krochmal, Roghyeh Najdi* and *Tarek Shabout*. **De Zwarte Panter** with *Roger van Akelyen* and *Marc Kennes*.

## FOCUS on KNOCKE

In Knokke most galleries have a unique extra to offer: a beautiful view of the North Sea! At **Patrick De Brock Gallery**, the easily recognisable work by *Julian Opie* is on view, known for his pictogram-like paintings, videos, and sculptures. **Geukens & De Vil** stages the group show 'Between white and color' with work by *Matthew Feyld, Jaromír Novotný, Ane Vester* and *Marthe Wéry*. **QG Gallery** presents "South Korea VS The World", a group show with international artists, such as *Daniel Buren, Antonio Calderara, Kim Hyun-Sik, Jiana Kim, Chun Kwang Young, Imi Knoebel, Robert Mangold, and Moon Pil Shim*. The Belgian artist *Arne Quinze*, known for his monumental sculptural outdoor installations made from wooden slats, sets up a solo show at **Maruani Mercier**. At **Mulier Mulier Gallery** there is a group show with *Jos De Gruyter & Harald Thys, Art & Language, Hugo Dinër, and Guy Van Bossche*.

**Other gallery shows in Belgium that are worth mentioning:**

**Keteleer (Brasschaat)** with *Javier Pérez*, **Kristof De Clercq (Ghent)** with *Klaas Kloosterboer*, **Nadja Vilenne (Liège)** with *Olivier Foulon*, **Whitehouse Gallery (Lovenjoel)** with *Caroline Coolen* and *Caroline Le Méhauté & Erwan Maheo*.

### **Practical information:**

**Offline:** Gallery tour from Thursday 3 June until Sunday 6 June 2021, from 11am until 6pm.

- In Brussels, guided tours are organised in Dutch, French and English during the weekend of 5 & 6 June in different gallery districts. No reservation needed.
  - Starting point at **dépendance** (Rue du Marché aux porcs 4, 1000 Brussels):
    - Saturday: 1pm (French), 4pm (Dutch)
    - Sunday: 1pm (English), 4pm (Dutch)
  - Starting point at **Mendes Wood DM** (Rue des Sablons 13, 1000 Brussels):
    - Saturday: 1pm (Dutch), 4pm (French)
    - Sunday: 1pm (French), 4pm (English)
  - Starting point at **rodolphe janssen** (Rue Livourne 35, 1050 Brussels):
    - Saturday: 1pm (English), 4pm (Dutch)
    - Sunday: 1pm (French), 4pm (Dutch)
  - Starting point at **Xavier Hufkens** (Rue Van Eyck 44, 1000 Brussels):
    - Saturday: 1pm (French), 4pm (English)
    - Sunday: 1pm (Dutch), 4pm (French)
  
- Overview participating galleries: see website [www.artbrussels.com](http://www.artbrussels.com)

**Online:** Online Viewing Room hosted by Artsy, including a “best off” selected by **Abaseh Mirvali**, independent curator (Los Angeles); **Zoé Whitley**, director of Chisenhale Gallery (London); **Joost Vanhaerents**, co-owner at Vanhaerents Art collection (Brussels).

- Tuesday 1 June until Monday 14 June 2021
- Access via <https://www.artbrussels.com/en/online-viewing-rooms/>

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