

DAUWENS & BEERNAERT  
GALLERY

Alex Verhaest

“A La Folie / To Insanity”

13 October - 12 November 2016

Vernissage: 13 October as of 6 PM



Press inquiries / HQ pictures  
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### I. Press release

*Als Gregor Samsa eines Morgens aus unruhigen Träumen erwachte, fand er sich in seinem Bett zu einem ungeheuren Ungeziefer verwandelt.*

*As Gregor Samsa awoke one morning from uneasy dreams, he found himself transformed in his bed into a gigantic insect-like creature.*

(Opening sentence, *Die Verwandlung*, F. Kafka 1915).

Dauwens & Beernaert Gallery is pleased to present

### **'A la Folie / To Insanity'**

a solo exhibition of recent sculptures (3D-prints), interactive video installations and inkjet prints by internationally awarded Belgian artist Alex Verhaest (°1985, MFA St. Lucas Brussels).

A la Folie / To Insanity features a series of standalone works based on a self-written script inspired by '*Die Verwandlung*' (the Metamorphosis) a novella by Franz Kafka. Kafka's novella follows Gregor Samsa a salesman who works to provide for his parents and his sister, Grete Samsa. One morning Gregor awakens to find that he has been transformed into a monstrous insect. Grete Samsa becomes his caretaker after the metamorphosis. That relationship starts off cordially and cooperatively but deteriorates to a passive aggressive state. The protagonists of Alex Verhaest's narrative structure 'A la Folie / To Insanity' are (former) lovers. Grete and Gregor's common language, which used to be based on love and mutual understanding, has disappeared. She accuses him of becoming a sickening crustacean, while he says she's degenerated into some kind of mollusc. Through a failing memory and ever-changing versions of the same story, the viewer and protagonists become embroiled in a false history. All that is left is emotion. Like a projection of our own world, Alex works are an invitation into a place of illusion, a study of complex, alienated characters through intriguing dialogues that are basically neurotic monologues and subtle animated elements. Alex Verhaest's new sculptures and video installations are visual explorations and investigations of the nature and boundaries of language and relationships and the potential of contemporary storytelling. Her pictorial work operates by the juxtaposition of painting, video and contemporary technology.

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**II. About Alex Verhaest**

Alex Verhaest's work was selected by several arts and new-media festivals and competitions; i.e. the FILE electronic language festival in Sao Paolo, the New Technology Art Award in Gent, TAZ Oostende and Arts Festival Watou, and her work is featured in the Akzo Nobel Collection. Alex Verhaest recently won the Japanese Media Arts New Face Award and the Golden Nica at the Ars Electronica Festival. In 2016 Alex Verhaest presented a comprehensive solo exhibition at Brakke Grond, Amsterdam. She currently lives and works in Brussels.

**III. Dauwens & Beernaert**

Dauwens & Beernaert is a contemporary art gallery founded by Laurence Dauwens and Joris Beernaert. The gallery is located in a former bank building built in 1876. Dauwens & Beernaert's focus is on the primary art market. The gallery covers a broad spectrum of contemporary artistic practices, from figurative paintings to video work and minimalistic to conceptual work.

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Selected works



Grete\_002

3D-print, glue  
ED. 5 + II  
38 x 35 x 25 cm

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Gregor\_002

3D-print, glue

ED. 5 + II

38 x 35 x 25 cm

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