

DAUWENS & BEERNAERT
GALLERY

PRESS RELEASE

H0

(*“hab-nul”*)

STANISLAS LAHAUT | TOON BOECKMANS | KARL PHILIPS | LOIC VAN ZEEBROEK

31.08.2019-26.10.2019

Vernissage: Saturday 31.08.2019 4-8 PM



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I. PRESS TEXT

Dauwens & Beernaert is pleased to present “H0” (pronounced: “*hah-null*”), an encounter of recent sculptures and installations by Stanislas Lahaut (1979, lives and works in Ghent), Karl Philips (1985, lives and works in Genk), Toon Boeckmans (°1993, lives and works in Ghent) and Loïc Van Zeebroek (°1994, lives and works in Ghent).

The exhibition lends its title (“H0”) from the most popular rail transport modelling scale using a 1:87 scale¹. The H0 scale provides the balance between the detail of larger scales and the lower space requirements of smaller scales and can also be easily handled by children without fear of swallowing small parts.

The exhibition explores the potential for subversion that comes with altered scale, how contemporary artists use miniatures, dioramas and scale models to imagine the uncanny space between functional architecture and dysfunctional sculpture, and how these works - often reminiscent of our childhood - can recall in us that sense of wonder for the world around us.

H0 compels the viewer to look closer, in awe at the skill, enchanted by the size, captivated by the message.

H0 features 10 recent works by young Sint-Lucas Ghent graduate **Toon Boeckmans**. His work defies ready classification and is often both dystopian as well as humoristic. Toon’s multifaceted works are often centred around observations of, and engagements with, the poetry of the profane, the momentary, the *homo ludens* and non-verbal communication. Toon Boeckmans’ work is often based on found objects (eg a chocolate mould, sinkers,...) that he transforms through minimal yet intelligent interventions, giving these objects new meanings, connotations and narratives. He deprives these objects from their original teleology and setting and brings them together in a new context which enables new possibilities and unconventional conventions.

Stanislas Lahaut’s works draw upon everyday material culture, including found objects, consumer goods, and the (mechanisms behind) the art world. In addition to sculpture and installation art, his prodigious oeuvre includes collages, paintings and neon installations featuring seemingly very simple yet poetic texts. Stanislas Lahaut uses humour and playfulness as a strategy for broaching serious and essential matters. He gets the party going,

¹ NEM 010 *Normen Europäischer Modellbahnen*

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but immediately shows the day after too. H0 features a recent series of bronze cast sculptures and moulds that are based on somewhat over-romanticized porcelain figurines.

H0 features 2 recent scale models by Karl Philips and one in situ installation featuring mobile Dixi toilets, a film and a large scale installation '7 square metres'. Between 2011 and 2014, **Karl Philips** worked on an ambitious project, resulting in the experimental film and installation '7 Square Metres'. In this project, he explores the question whether there is still such a thing as underground. In a globalized world where commitment is looked at with a certain irony, in times of crisis where art needs to redefine itself, there is a craving for people with nerve and idealism. 7 Square Metres is a boyish secret, a clandestine action, an idealistic deed of resistance whilst being one of the most ambitious projects Karl Philips has ever performed. 7 square metres is based on a site-specific action at the 2011 Pukkelpop Festival. Founded in 1985 as a grassroots event, it has since grown to become a corporately funded monolith, prioritizing rules and conformity over rebellion and community. Philips and his team set out to "hack" the festival by occupying a piece of land. They buried a camper during a covert overnight operation in the field where the festival would be held four months later. The process involved a crew of more than 30 people, as well as several months of training and practice digs. The plan was to resurrect the trailer on the festival's second day of the Pukkelpop Festival. But that never happened. On the scheduled date a thunderstorm hit, killing five and injuring 140 others. The festival was cancelled and Philips's project scrapped.

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Z.T.

Loic Van Zeebroek

2019

Mixed Media

50 x 60 x 30 cm.

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H0 features the first sculpture ever made by **Loïc Van Zeebroek**. As in his paintings, the sculpture questions the construction of the pictorial image. The sculpture creates a vacuum; a space without pressure. He manages, through a careful form of cherry picking and elimination to create a naive space for contemplation. If you listen well to his work, you can hear the silence.

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II. About 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. The location has a rich history hosting high profile shows, including artists such as Andy Warhol and Donald Judd. Dauwens & Beernaert's focus is on the primary art market, but the gallery is also active in the secondary market. In the primary sector, the gallery covers a broad spectrum of contemporary artistic practices, from figurative paintings to video work and minimalistic to conceptual work.

III. Upcoming Art Fairs

Artissima

1-3 November 2019 (vernissage 31 October)

www.artissima.art

Luxemburg Art Fair (Solo Quinten Ingelaere)

8-10 November (vernissage 8 November)

www.luxembourgartweek.lu