

Johan De Wit

B. 1960, lives and works in Ghent, Belgium

Shape and color are the starting points for Johan De Wit's varied oeuvre that largely consists of sculptures, videos and picturesque objects. His works evoke all kinds of associations, such as childhood memories, but also those of vanity and melancholy. In evoking an atmosphere of poetic stillness, the artist combines his love for aesthetic objects with everyday life: ranging from a pot, a table or a ladder to abstract objects – sometimes even with religious or archaeological connotations – as in those conjured up by a disc or a triptych.

De Wit is inspired by the paintings of the Flemish Primitives and the Flemish and Dutch masters of the Golden Age, but there are also clear echoes of the work of Giorgio Morandi, for example. De Wit recognizes a kind of the restless openness in both the still lifes and the landscapes of the old masters, but also the refined craftsmanship he seeks in his own work. This is reflected in his search for materiality, textures and color. Much like life itself, everything seems to be moving in De Wit's work.

De Wit's creations often refer to classics from art history from Antiquity to the present. His work evokes traditional themes such as landscapes, still lifes and genre pieces. In addition, they also play on the conventional philosophic and religious themes: the insignificance and fragility of human existence, the ephemeral, futile and ludicrous of power and flamboyance, the pleasure and fleetingness of earthly pleasures.

The artworks are made in paper, reinforced with resins and enriched with iron powders and pigments. The artist's technical mastery is astounding, is subservient, but does not want to overwhelm us. Most of the works seem to refer to something in reality and at the same time they don't, which confuses the viewer. There is melancholy and heaviness in the air, but also humor, comfort and care. De Wit leaves thinking open and exposes feeling.

Public Collections

Museum Voorlinde, Wassenaar
SMAK, Gent
Nationale Bank van België, Brussel
Stichting Mu.Zee, Oostende

Private Collections

Collectie Sanders

Solo Exhibitions (selection)

- 2020 Classics, Kristof De Clercq gallery, Ghent, Belgium
- 2019 Affinity Art gallery, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong
Solid Air, Rutger Brandt Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Comforting Stash, Kristof De Clercq gallery, Ghent, Belgium
- 2018 Art Rotterdam, solo show Kristof De Clercq gallery, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Volta14, solo show PRIVATEVIEW gallery, Basel, Switzerland
Code Art Fair, solo show PRIVATEVIEW gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2017 Moral Outlet, Garage Neven, Ninove, Belgium
Kristof De Clercq gallery, Ghent, Belgium
- 2016 The End of the World for Beginners, Valerie Traan, Antwerp, Belgium
- 2015 In Den Bouw,
Kalken, Belgium
Kristof De Clercq gallery, Ghent, Belgium
- 2014 Loods 12, Wetteren, Belgium
- 2012 Kristof De Clercq gallery, Ghent, Belgium (with Honoré d'O)
- 1998 Galerie CD, Tielt, Belgium
- 1996 Voorkamer, Lier, Belgium
- 1994 Opus Operandi, Ghent, Belgium
- 1993 Galerie Christine & Isy Brachot, Brussels, Belgium
Huize St.-Jacobus, Ghent, Belgium
- 1992 Centrum Netwerk - Netwerk Galerij, Aalst, Belgium
- 1988 Centrum Netwerk - Netwerk Galerij, Aalst, Belgium