



PRESS RELEASE

DOKA

21.11.2023

As if in a darkroom

Group exhibition *DOKA* features contemporary artworks by René Heyvaert, Ann Veronica Janssens, Gerard Herman, Leyla Aydoslu and Lili Dujourie, amongst others.

DOKA runs at M Leuven from 15.12 to 05.01.25.

For this new collection presentation, photographer and guest curator Geert Goiris found inspiration in the darkroom: the magical place where analogue photos are developed and images are created. He curated the exhibition with artworks from the contemporary section of M's collection, which are awakened from their dormant existence in the depot and brought back into the light.

"As a transhistorical museum, M shows an exceptional mix of historic and contemporary art," says Bert Cornillie, Alderman for Culture and Chairman of M's board of directors. "With *DOKA*, and together with our guest curator Geert Goiris, we are showcasing the exceptional range of contemporary art that the museum – courtesy of Cera, the Flemish Community and the City of Leuven – has to offer. The exhibition includes some of the most distinctive voices in the Belgian art landscape, from Leyla Aydoslu to Marthe Wéry."

For Belgian photographer Geert Goiris, *DOKA* marks a return to the museum after his solo exhibition in 2013. He kept a quote by the late poet Mary Oliver in mind when curating the group exhibition: "Attention is the beginning of devotion."

"Our era is characterised by speed, distraction, looking without noticing. The exhibition focuses on the necessity and pleasure of attentive viewing," explains Goiris. "It is an invitation to the public to question familiar physical or mental spaces, and the conventions associated with them. The artworks sharpen our senses through various strategies. They challenge us to abandon assumptions and see everyday objects or figures in a new light."

Media and techniques

Physical space also plays a role in the selected artworks, in the form of interiors and landscapes. They appear in numerous guises and in various works, from sculptures and installations to prints and photographs. A number of video works by Lili Dujourie form the backbone of the exhibition. They play out in real-time: the viewing time equals the duration of the recording. The videos invite stillness. Those who stay the course will experience the passage of time in a palpable way.





Artists

The group exhibition *DOKA* includes works by Leyla Aydoslu, Younes Baba-Ali, Dirk Braeckman, Raphaël Buedts, Paul Casaer, Honoré d'O, Lili Dujourie, Jef Geys, Gerard Herman, René Heyvaert, Ann Veronica Janssens, Jan Kempnaers, Valérie Mannaerts, Hana Miletić, Peter Morrens, Hilde Overbergh, Ria Pacquée, Benoit Platéus, Kato Six, Gintautė Skvernytė, Walter Swennen, Joëlle Tuerlinckx, Michael Van den Abeele, Philippe Van Snick, Richard Venlet, Jan Vercruyse and Marthe Wéry.

All the artworks on display come from the collections of Cera, the Flemish Community and the city of Leuven, managed by M Leuven.

Geert Goiris

Geert Goiris lives and works in Antwerp. He travels the world in search of unusual places to interpret into enigmatic images. Inspired by the ambiguous concept of high fidelity (technology that makes itself invisible or inaudible, so to speak, to get closer to the 'original'), he uses large-format analogue cameras and scientific films that are more sensitive than the human eye. Despite the abundant detail in his prints or projections, the feeling that something is missing always prevails. His work can be found in the collections of the Seattle Art Museum (US), Hamburger Kunsthalle (Germany), FOMU (Belgium), Centro de Arte Caja de Burgos (Spain) and Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris (France), amongst others.

Press preview

The press preview takes place on Thursday 14.12.23 in the presence of M Leuven's General Director, Peter Bary, and curator Geert Goiris. Please confirm your attendance via persm@mleuven.be.

Start: 09:45

Opening celebration

The exhibition opens at M on Thursday, 14.12.23. Admission is free and there is no need to register in advance.

Start: 20:00

Double opening

In parallel with *DOKA*, M is also presenting the work of M-resident Anna van der Ploeg. She was M's artist in residence at Cas-co from March to August 2023 and is exhibiting her latest research and work in a small-scale presentation at the museum.





Van der Ploeg combines elements of sculpture with painting and printmaking to create her own method of cutting, painting and bending plywood. Her work is driven by the observation of human interactions and the role that language plays in these exchanges. Van der Ploeg collects DIY posters which, for her, are manifestations of the desire to be heard, or to send a thought or message into the world.

Inspired by a found poster that touched the artist deeply, and a banderol on a work in M's collection, Van der Ploeg has created new sculptures during her M residency. The presentation at the museum unlocks Van der Ploeg's new experiments with wood, marmoleum and linen. The exhibition runs until 3 March 2024.

Practical info

DOKA

15.12 > 05.01.25

www.mleuven.be/programma/doka

Presentation by Anna van der Ploeg

15.12 > 03.03.24

www.mleuven.be/programma/toonmoment-m-resident-anna-van-der-ploeg

Fancy some more art (books)? Discover the wide selection of titles and coffee and cake at Barbóék in M. More info at www.mleuven.be.

