

**Peter Buggenhout**

**umleitung**

**March 8 – August 10, 2025**

### **Peter Buggenhout's "abject things"**

Waldfrieden Sculpture Park opens the new season with an exhibition by Belgian artist Peter Buggenhout on March 8 2025

The Waldfrieden Sculpture Park will start the new exhibition season on March 8, 2025, with "Peter Buggenhout: umleitung." The Belgian sculptor will show a total of seven, large-scale objects from various groups of work in two of our exhibition halls and in the park. Buggenhout is internationally known for sculptures in which he uses discarded materials to create expansive physical forms in space.

The artist describes his sculptures as "abject things" — as objects that elude familiar cognitive connections and demand consideration from more than one vantage point.

The sculptures of Peter Buggenhout — who was born in Dendermonde, Belgium, in 1963, and lives and works in Ghent — are made from things that have been robbed of their original purpose because they are no longer used: detritus and artifacts alike form the matter that the artist uses in his work and with which he assembles his objects. Thrown away plastic foil, tarps, woven fabrics, newspapers, scrap metal, pieces of wood; or organic substances like cow intestines, horsehair and dust all become part of his work. Buggenhout creates enormous objects from these discarded remnants — creation and decay inherent in their immediate material presence and rugged form.

For several years now Buggenhout, who turned his back on painting in 1990 to concentrate on sculpture, has been making series of works with different material focuses and titles. The found, the cyclical and the transient are key themes that Buggenhout articulates in these groups, each a diverse sculptural inventory. His sculptures have no single orientation, the many perspectives from which they can be viewed are as essential to their meaning as the equivalence and simultaneity of their elements — with the discarded always being an important basis component of his work.

Peter Buggenhout says of his work:

"The bygone and the new do not contradict each other, they merge into a frozen movement. This *frozen moment* alludes to no fixed direction but meanders in time. Hence, it is difficult for the viewer to choose position towards these artworks with multiple possible perspectives and multiple truths present simultaneously [...]."

**Press photos**

Exhibition views will be available from March 4th 2025.



Peter Buggenhout, *The Blind Leading the Blind 67*, 2014 (c) Courtesy Konrad Fischer Galerie, Foto Dirk Pauwels



Peter Buggenhout, *On Hold 20*, 2021 (c) Courtesy the Artist, Foto Mischa Keijser

**Dates:**

"Peter Buggenhout: ~~umleitung~~"

Press conference: March 6, 2025 / 11 a.m.

Previews are possible from March 3rd, by prior arrangement.

Opening: March 8, 2025 / 11 a.m.

Duration: March 8 – August 10, 2025

## Waldfrieden Sculpture Park / Cragg Foundation

It was thanks to the private initiative of Tony Cragg, a British sculptor living in Wuppertal, that the Sculpture Park was founded and established. Thirty years after Cragg took up his exhibition activity, he began looking for a permanent site for presenting sculpture outdoors and discovered the abandoned Waldfrieden property, which he bought in 2006. That very same year he began redesigning the park grounds and the buildings that, after long years of vacancy, needed to be thoroughly renovated and modernized. In appreciation of the historical estate, its former structures and material substance were preserved to the greatest extent possible, thus keeping its historical dimension intact despite the conversion of the park and buildings to accommodate their new use. In 2008, the Sculpture Park was opened under the auspices of the Cragg family's nonprofit foundation. It houses a steadily growing collection of sculpture, including examples from Tony Cragg's own large oeuvre. All is accompanied by changing exhibitions of internationally known artists, lectures on culture and the humanities, as well as concerts. Beyond this, the Cragg Foundation is also dedicated to research on, and the publication of, the subject of the fine arts.



Tony Cragg, Points of View, 2007, Skulpturenpark Waldfrieden © VG Bild Kunst Bonn 2025, Foto Charles Duprat

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