

Press kit

Aporia gallery Brussels – Exhibition Bob Roes

17 March 2018 – 14 April 2018

Bob Roes: painting “The moment is yours”



BOB ROES, *The moment is yours*, 80x100, oil on canvas, 2017.

Bob Roes: painter



Artist Bob Roes in his atelier.

Belgian artist Bob Roes was born in 1969. He lives and works in Turnhout. Roes studied plastic arts in Ghent. He was a pedagogical educator and taught plastic arts in high school before deciding upon a career as an independent contemporary art painter.

In Aporia gallery's "The moment is yours" exhibition, Bob Roes shows oil paintings about particular moments in the past which have since then been fading away. The paintings are imagined based upon anonymous photographs which Roes uses in an effort trying to grasp as intangible moments in the past. The resulting paintings picture the almost impossibility to reframe the emotional context from given instants in the past - it seems that such moments can only be reminded as a best possible approximation of what has been. These instants of the past as photographs can only be thought of without ever becoming tangible again. From the artist's painterly perspective they open up new horizons.

Bob Roes: biography

- 1996 Turnhout, Paterspand, Bob Roes and Dan Fauré
- 1997 Borgerhout, group exposition, curator Mark Schepers, Ruimte Morguen
- 1997 Turnhout, Creative Factory Bob Roes
- 1999 Antwerp, Royal Academy, group exposition
- 2005 Berchem, galerie De Witte
- 2006 Turnhout, galerie Atelier 20+03 (Bob Roes and Paul Snoeckx)
- 2007 Wemmel, Brussel, Revalidation Center
- 2008 Turnhout, galerie Atelier 20+03 FEINT
- 2010 Oud-Turnhout, ONLAND
- 2011 Turnhout, RUN BABY RUN
- 2012 Turnhout, galerie Atelier 20+03, MERCI MARCEL (Bob Roes with Kris de Hoon, Ed Leenders)
- 2012 Turnhout, Begijnhof, ROMBOIDES (with Kris de Hoon)
- 2013 De Panne, THE MESSENGER
- 2014 Mol, Cultural Center FORWARD TO THE BACKYARD
- 2015 Heist op de Berg, Cultural Center Zwaneberg
- 2016 Herentals, Schaliken de Wissel
- 2017 Herentals, Kasteel le Paige
- 2018 Evergem, Cultural Center

The exposition in Aporia gallery Brussels: "The moment is yours", Bob Roes

“The moment is yours” - exhibition consists of landscape paintings and images by Bob Roes. He deals with the alienation of man from his past and perhaps (thus) from the his present life. The exposition is about the incapability to conserve the human mental condition as it was at a particular moment since it has constantly been evolving during one's live time. It hints towards an emptiness of the earthly passage of man and is to be understood as an encouragement to aim for the best possible.

For Roes the best way to capture an impression of the past in a painting is the use of taking photographs as a basis. However, he feels that it is impossible to frame the human figure as a whole, as an entire psychological entity in a photographic picture. This is even true when the depicted subject on the photographs, is our own. As a matter of fact, as we are looking at our own picture, it is as if we are looking at someone else, a stranger. Indeed, we can never say that images of ourselves are identical to what we were at that moment in the past, that is from a psychological point of view.

This is what is of interest to Roes; the loss of our own psychological being in pictures and probably more broadly; in the world we are living in. The human psychological condition cannot be framed in pictures and cannot be seen. It looks as if we are alienated from our own being when looking at pictures. Especially when we look at images from the past, it seems that we are alienated from ourselves. Sometimes it is hard to recognize ourselves from a physical point of view and more significantly, from an emotional perspective.

The question “who was I then?” gains relevance. What strikes immediately in Roes' approach to painting is the act of ‘not painting’ as well as the blurring of the human head. For Roes it is the best possible way to document the image of a person. For him, this way of painting becomes a statement about the non-reproducibility of any emotional assumption from a physical appearance when looking at pictures. As such, Roes indicates that painterly reproductions of the past lack validity because the psychological content has evolved or got lost since the picture was made. The value of any painted image resulting from a mere mimesis approach lacks truthfulness given the constant development of the human psychological framework in time. Roes denies the portrayal of the human head as a means capable of bringing added value to the psychology of the subject.

In the same vain the vertical line which is prominently painted across the painting's surface, may be considered as an addition to the questioning about the validity of the image and depicted subject. However, now it seems more to represent a discontinuity in time with regards to the painted figure; does the image wants us to consider a ‘before’ and an ‘after’ of an unknown event in the course of the subject's itinerary? Or does it allude to the presence of a second figure hidden within the deepest of our being? Or does it represent a split of the figure's personality in the literal meaning of the word? If these possibilities would be the case, it takes courage to admit the existence of another or a split ego in us. Nevertheless, it is probably as human and natural as the human psyche can be and Roes gives this human aspect shape into his paintings which is providing the work at least with a second rather grim layer.

This layering is interesting because they bring into account possibilities of another ego in the fabric of our individual existence and at the same time, pin-points to the darker side in each of us.

About Aporia gallery: contemporary art in Brussels

Aporia is a home gallery where art of contemporary artists is shown. Aporia actively looks for contemporary artistic expression with a view to exhibit. Aporia gallery started of in April 2017.

Originality in a contemporary context is the primary criterion. Benchmarks of originality follow from image and object language, production technologies and techniques, supports of art pieces, presentation forms, subject and themes, applied materials, the artist and artistry.

Aporia does not only serve commercial objectives; Aporia is providing a conceptual space for artists adding to their development and generating artistic added value.



Aporia gallery Brussels, exposition Karin Deroo – Insiders' Memories - October 2017.

Aporia gallery provides spaces on the 4th and 5th floors of a building which dates back from the beginning of the 20th century which were used for the handling of packaged materials. Indeed, the “Rue des Commerçants” in which Aporia gallery is located, refers to the economic and commercial activities of the “Cartier des Quais”. This is also referenced by other street names such the Quai du Commerce and Quai aux Pierres de Taille - they refer to the old docks of the harbor of Brussels.

In the years 2000 the building was restored into living apartments. Aporia gallery occupies the two upper floors. The 5th floor consists of an apartment surrounded by a green garden with a view over Brussels. These two floors constitute Aporia gallery and are at the disposition of the artist and gallerist to show and exhibit contemporary art including sculptures. Niels Vaes used the outdoor area to build a tower during the first “Let’s play house” exposition in Aporia gallery in April 2017. Today Aporia gallery is busy developing its fifth exhibition.



*Aporia gallery presents Niels Vaes – Let's play house – April 2017
Installation on rooftop terrace.*



*Aporia gallery presents Anne-Sophie Fontenelle – Fragements Intimes – January 2018
The curator and the artist preparing the exhibition.*



*Aporia gallery presents Patrick Keulemans – Texting and other things – December 2017
The artist explaining his work “Een jaar lang schreef ik je wekelijks na middernacht”.*

About the curator Bart Roefmans

Bart Roefmans was active in engineering and economics in previous lives which was followed by a two decades period of “surfing on diplomatic waves”.

He is a master in art sciences specialized in avant-garde-, modern- and contemporary art and is confident to put Aporia gallery on track. The amazement about art is pulling his shoulder every day and the ambition to develop Aporia gallery concerns a project that will connect artists and art lovers by offering a hyphen between the two of them.



Past exhibitions in Aporia gallery

Niels Vaes - *Let's play house* (22 April – 14 May 2017)

Karin Deroo - *Insiders' memories* (21 October – 11 November 2017)

Patrick Keulemans – *Texting and other things* (9 December 2017 – 30 December 2017)

Anne-Sophie Fontenelle – *Fragments intimes* (27 January – 17 February 2018)

Upcoming expositions in Aporia gallery

Pieter Léon Vermeersch

Vermeersch integrates computer simulation, design, architectural history and visual arts in maquettes and prints. This way he makes visible his creativity and imagination.

(May - June 2018)

Irene Goethuys en Roland Fonteyne

The balance and equilibrium of daily forms and things shape the clay and ceramic works of Irene Goethuys

(September – October 2018)

Ine Lammers

Ine Lammers paints self-portraits as an individual and as a woman. She is translating emotions into colourful paintings which are becoming measures of intensity.

(October-November 2018)

Alain de Permentier

The act of painting is determined by allowing a high degree of chance as the painter is seeking his way through the production of a painting. Tranquility is given to the paintings through a dosed implementation of intense colours.

(December 2018)

Expositions in preparation at Aporia gallery (2019)

Retrospective exposition Jan Meerts – Richard Verwimp.

Various other exhibitions under development.

Opening hours Bob Roes exposition

Opening/vernissage: March 17 from 5 to 8pm

Finissage: April 14 from 5 to 8pm

Exposition from March 18 to April 14, 2018

Opening hours Aporia gallery

Wed., Thurs. and Friday on appointment: +32 (0) 472 210 531

Saturdays and Sundays: from 2 to 6 pm

Reservations visits: (+32) 479 210 531 or bart.roefmans@aporia.be

More Info

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Presse contact

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