

**SIEMEN VAN GAUBERGEN – A GARDEN NEAR THE WINDOW (PEPPER'S GHOST)**

13 January – 2 March 2019

What does it mean to exhibit a work of art in a display window? In an enclosed space with glass on one side? What happens to an image when it's placed in such a context? Is the display window a framework for the image or does its glass become part of the image?

The source image for "A Garden near the Window (Pepper's Ghost)" is a portrait in a photo album. The photo is hidden behind plastic film that started to wrinkle over time. In the image, the light on the photo and the ambient light are compressed with the subject and the film in one plane. That results in an abstraction and fragmentation of the impression. Incidence of light and layers of colour obscure the underlying objects.

"(Pepper's Ghost)" refers to an illusion technique used in the theatre in which we perceive the reflection of a figure that isn't on the stage. This trick uses light and the reflection of light on a large piece of glass. In this case the process is reversed, resulting in the disappearance of the figure. We no longer look at the person, but at the surface in front of that person.

Siemen Van Gaubergen applies four layers of colour. He uses the CYMK colour model (Cyan, Yellow, Magenta, Key plate for black), the well-known standard grid of four basic colours used in printing. They are scattered with an airbrush, which increases the blurriness.

The spotless white canvas yields the brightest light. Contrary to the generally bulky, twentieth-century canvas, the artist is able to reduce the canvas's physical difference in thickness to a minimum. The depth isn't found in the third dimension or in the subject matter, it's found on the surface. The image's construction phases and observation context are important. This method invites the viewer to think about the speculative reality behind the reflection and about the space between the image and what's being portrayed. The painting solidifies all processes and viewpoints into one moment. Due to its presentation in the window, a new layer is created; a layer that is related to the image.

Filip Luyckx

**Siemen Van Gaubergen** (°1991) studied Fine Arts at Sint-Lukas, Brussels (2009-2016).

Exhibitions: 2018 "A Myriad of Images", Law faculty, Leuven; "Open-Studio's", Cas-Co, Leuven; "Directions-Location", Sint-Lukas Gallery, Brussels. 2017 "Price Graphic", Centre de la Gravure, La Louviere; "One Year" & "Inselform", Raum Vollreinigung, Berlin. 2016 "Pressroom Witruimte", The Studio, Antwerp; "LUCA Showcase", De Markten, Brussels; "Head, Hand, Heart", Vertical Gallery, Chicago; "Graduation Show", Sint-Lukas, Brussels; "Improvisation session (with Jan Pillaert)", OPEK, Leuven.

**Filip Luyckx** is a trained art historian and worked first in the state archives, at a publishing house and was also teaching history and literature before starting a career in the curatorial field. Since 1994 he organises exhibitions for the SINT-LUKAS GALLERY BRUSSELS, a non-commercial art foundation. Sint-Lukas gallery Brussels provides a forum for innovative contemporary artists from both home and abroad. We are interested primarily in artists who herald future developments rather than reaffirm the past. These artists are not yet broadly recognised and when we become involved with them they are still very much the subject of debate. We do not tie ourselves to one single trend, medium or generation.