

PRESS RELEASE

BLACK CUBE

CINZENTO

Stan Van Steendam

Exhibition: 23 February > 17 March 2018

Opening: Thursday 22 February - 6 > 9 pm

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Cinzento, Portuguese for grey, is a new series of work by Belgian artist Stan Van Steendam where he transcends his previous oeuvre, with a minimal approach to strip it back to the essential.

The places where Van Steendam chooses to reside always have a major influence in his work. Currently, he is working from a studio in Lisbon, where he was captivated by the light and the skies. An inspiration that is directly reflected in his work.

Light, brightness, absorption and reflection are all essential concepts in Van Steendam's work. The color grey, omnipresent in this series, is a mixture of a certain amount of darkness (black) with the right proportions of bright light (white). It's a color concurrently charged with brightness and darkness, something that is reflected in the inner absorption of these shades as we observe them.

For this new series, Van Steendam employs an array of non-conventional painting materials such as plaster, pure pigments and a polished varnish commonly reserved for cars. With his bare hands as his main tool, he simultaneously sculpts and paints, while his fingerprints mark his works.

As the color of this series personates a border between dark and light, so can the works themselves be viewed as a kind of border, fluctuating between sculpture and painting at the same time.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Stan Van Steendam (1985 – Belgium) lives and works in Brussels and Lisbon.

The artistic practice of Stan Van Steendam translates itself as a deconstruction of the materiality of painting, which comes to expression in his intuitive compositions. Through an extensive layering of raw pigment and plaster, the artist amplifies the spatial properties of painting – abandoning the traditional focus on surface – to increase the object's volume, making it enter the space of the viewer. This results in a body of work that blurs painting and sculpture, with an emphasis on the physical presence of the object in the space, making it approachable from all sides.

His use of texture, tactility and solid monochromes is aimed at triggering a mesmerizing effect with the observer: one of heightened perception, of inner absorption and being one with the material itself. Van Steendam questions the limits of painting by diverging from the medium's conventional application and proposing new approaches with minimal aesthetics. He treats the material sculpturally, laying bare the creational process in his work so that the object in his current appearance co-exists simultaneously with its history.

Stan Van Steendam has shown his work in solo exhibitions at Asphodel Gallery (2018 – New-York), Theca Gallery (2018 – Milano), Kunsthuis LOOF (2017 – Amsterdam), Boeckercontemporary (2017 – Heidelberg). He took part in group exhibitions at D'apostrof (2017 – Meigem), at Grand-Palais (2017 - Paris), at Zentrale (2016 – Berlin), at Salon des Réalités Nouvelles (2016 – Paris), at Abstract Project (2016 – Paris), at Hidden Project (2015 – Bruxelles), at Design September (2013 – Bruxelles), ...

He realised residences in Portugal (2015 – Prainha Pico, 2016 – Syntax Lisbon) and in Italy (Cripta747 – Torino).



STAN VAN STEENDAM

UNTITLED
2016

Pigments, jute, plaster, epoxy on wood
21 x 27 x 7.5 cm



STAN VAN STEENDAM

UNTITLED
2016

Pigments, jute, plaster, epoxy on wood
118 x 134 x 18 cm

ABOUT THE GALLERY

Archiraar Gallery was founded in 2012 by Alexis Rastel. As an architect, he joins his spatial practice with artistic research. The Gallery represents artists from the upcoming generation and plans on long time collaborations. It shows paintings, drawings, sculptures, pictures, videos and installations.

The Gallery's White Cube was opened in Brussels in 2013. Ideology of a neutral space, this volume of 3x3x9 meters questions our contemporary habits of showing art. The Black Cube, opened in 2014, is its complementary space. Its enclosed space suggests an intimate perception of the work. Between 2013 and 2015, with parallel solo shows, artists represented by the gallery have shown in both spaces.

Starting 2016, the Gallery will be intersecting the spaces' programs and inviting curators and artists to participate in group shows. In addition, the Gallery publishes and promotes artists' works. With each show, Archiraar houses resonating artistic projects.

ARCHIRAAR GALLERY

WHITE CUBE - Rue de la Tulipe 31A Tulpstraat - 1050 Brussels - Belgium

BLACK CUBE - Rue de la Tulipe 35A Tulpstraat - 1050 Brussels - Belgium

Thursday > Saturday - 1 > 6 pm

And by appointment

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