

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POP-UP EXHIBITION



26 JANUARY – 9 MARCH 2021
ONLINE EXHIBITION

DAVID CLAERBOUT | FRANÇOIS CURLET | DAAN VAN GOLDEN | JOS DE GRUYTER & HARALD THYS | ANN VERONICA JANSSENS

SIMON LEE GALLERY
ONLINE VIEWING ROOM

Simon Lee Gallery is pleased to present *Pop-Up*, a group exhibition presented in partnership with Galerie Micheline Szwajcer, travelling especially from Antwerp to London.

In a series of works on paper based on his 2016 video work, *The Pure Necessity*, David Claerbout recontextualises characters from *The Jungle Book*. The video – crafted from painstaking, hand-rendered replicas of frames from the original movie – reimagines the Disney classic as a narrative-free animation, in which each character is discharged of their anthropomorphic traits. Conversely, Jos de Gruyter & Harald Thys' collaborative works on paper are loosely-drawn caricatures, presented alongside deadpan titles. *Paris in the Rain*, 2015, for example, riffs on Gustave Caillebotte's *Paris Street; Rainy Day*, 1877. It is recognisable, a copy, but its off-kilter realism catches the viewer off guard, something that is explored further in their uncanny sculpture.

Ann Veronica Janssens' immersive practice also explores the experience of reality, albeit from a sensory approach. Her minimalist aesthetic makes way for her viewers' cognitive response, making use of light, colour and reflection in her bid to reveal the instability of time and space. *Blue Glass Roll 405/2*, 2019 – recently included in her solo exhibition at the South London Gallery – is a circular, donut-shaped sculpture made from glass of such a density that it appears to be blue rather than transparent.

Elsewhere in the exhibition, artists are concerned with notions of authorship. In a series of works consisting of copper sheets mounted on wooden supports, François Curlet plays with the concept of the readymade. These minimal compositions appear manufactured but on closer inspection reveal signs of their maker's intervention. Likewise, Daan Van Golden's *Untitled (Tokyo)*, 1964, explores the intersection of handmade and mechanical production methods. The painting belongs to a group of around twenty works made by the artist during a two year-long stay in Japan, in which he meticulously reproduced on canvas motifs found on wrapping paper and paper handkerchiefs.

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NOTES TO EDITORS**About David Claerbout**

David Claerbout was born in 1969 in Kortrijk, Belgium and lives and works in Antwerp, Belgium and Berlin, Germany. Claerbout studied at the Nationaal Hoger Instituut voor Schone Kunsten, Antwerp, Belgium from 1992-1995 and participated in the DAAD: Berlin Artists-in-Residence programme from 2002-2003. Claerbout's work has been shown extensively internationally and has been the subject of numerous solo exhibitions, most recently including Galerie Rodolfinum, Prague, Czech Republic (2020); Samstag Museum, Adelaide, Australia (2020) and Kunst Museum Winterthur, Switzerland (2020). Other solo exhibitions include Talbot Rice Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland (2018); Schaulager, Basel, Switzerland (2017); De Pont Museum of Art, Tilburg, Netherlands (2016); Kunsthalle Mainz, Mainz, Germany (2013); Secession, Vienna, Austria (2012); Tel Aviv Museum, Tel Aviv, Israel (2012); SFMOMA, San Francisco, CA (2011); WIELS, Brussels, Belgium (2011); De Pont museum of contemporary art, Tilburg, Netherlands (2009); Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France (2007); Kunstmuseum, St. Gallen, Switzerland (2008) and Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, Netherlands (2005). Claerbout's work is included in major public collections worldwide, including Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France; Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich, Germany; Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Canada; The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C; S.M.A.K, Ghent, Belgium; Collection François Pinault, Venice, Italy; FRAC Nord Pas de Calais, Calais, France; Galerie Neue Meister, Dresden, Germany; GAM Galleria D'Arte Moderna et Contemporanea, Turin, Italy and many others.

About François Curlet

François Curlet was born in 1967 in Paris, France and lives and works in Arles, France. Curlet's work has been the subject of numerous solo exhibitions, including Galerie Micheline Szwajcer, Antwerp, Belgium (2020); MACS, Grand Hornu, Belgium (2018); Air de Paris, Paris, France, (2016); Mehdi Chouakri, Berlin, Germany (2016); Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France (2013); Blueproject Foundation, Barcelona, Spain (2013); Institut d'art contemporain de Villeurbanne (IAC), Villeurbanne, France (2007); Galerie Commune, Tourcoing, France (2007) and Centre d'Art Santa Monica, Barcelona, Spain (2005). Major group exhibitions include WIELS, Brussels, Belgium (2018); Musée des Beaux-Arts, Rennes, France (2018); Centre Régional d'Art Contemporain Occitanie/Pyrénées-Méditerranée, Sète, France (2017); Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY (2016); Museum of Contemporary Art, Antwerp, Belgium (2016); Tate Modern, London, UK (2010); Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, Madison, WI and Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, IA (2009); MOT Museum, Tokyo, Japan (2008); MOCA, Miami, FL (2008) and Musée d'Art Contemporain, Lyon, France (2007). Curlet's work has been acquired by leading public collections in France and Europe, including the Centre Pompidou, Paris, France; Tate, London, UK; MACS, Grand Hornu, Belgium and Van Abbe Museum, Eindhoven, Netherlands.

About Daan Van Golden

Daan Van Golden was born in 1936 in Rotterdam, Netherlands, and died in 2017 in Schiedam. Van Golden studied painting at the Willem de Kooning Academy in Rotterdam from 1954 to 1959. Van Golden's work has been exhibited extensively in the Netherlands, as well as throughout Europe, the United States and Japan. Solo exhibitions of Van Golden's work include Galerie Micheline Szwajcer, Antwerp, Belgium (2019); Andriess Eyck Galerie, Amsterdam, Netherlands (2018); Greene Naftali, New York, NY (2016); Misako & Rosen, Tokyo, Japan (2014); Wiels, Brussels, Belgium (2012); Centre d'Art Contemporain, Dijon, France (1996) and Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands (1991). Major group exhibitions include The National Museum of Art, Osaka, Japan (2019); Museum de Fundatie, Zwolle, Netherlands (2019); Stedelijk Museum, Netherlands (2013); Perry Rubenstein Gallery, New York, NY (2006); Musée des Beaux-Arts de Dole, Dole, France (2004) and Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris, France (1967). His work appears in major collections such as Kunstmuseum Den Haag, The Hague, Netherlands; ABN AMRO Art Collection and the Huis Marseille, Museum for Photography, both Amsterdam, Netherlands.

About Jos de Gruyter & Harald Thys

Jos de Gruyter, born in 1965 in Geel, Belgium, and Harald Thys, born in 1966 in Antwerp, Belgium, both live and work in Brussels, Belgium. They have been working together as a duo since the end of the 1980s. De Gruyter studied at the Institute for Fine Arts, Sint-Lukas, Brussels, Belgium (1992) and at Rijksakademie, Amsterdam, Netherlands (1997). Thys completed studies at the Institute for Fine Arts, Sint-Lukas, Brussels, Belgium (1992) and at the Jan van Eyck Akademie, Maastricht, Netherlands (1999). In 2019, together they represented Belgium at the 58th Venice Biennale with the exhibition, MONDO CANE. Thys and de Gruyter have exhibited worldwide in venues including BOZAR,

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Brussels, Belgium (2020); MoMA PS1, New York, NY (2015); Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL (2015); The Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, CA (2015); Kunsthalles Wien, Vienna, Austria (2014) and M HKA, Museum of Contemporary Art, Antwerp, Belgium (2013). Major group exhibitions include TANK, Shanghai, China (2019); Anren Biennale, Chengdu, China (2017); SculptureCenter, Long Island City, NY (2014); Zachęta National Gallery of Art, Warsaw, Poland (2014); LUX/ICA Biennial of Moving Images, ICA, London, UK (2012) and WIELS Contemporary Art Centre, Brussels, Belgium (2009).

About Ann Veronica Janssens

Ann Veronica Janssens was born in 1956 in Folkestone, UK, and currently lives and works in Brussels, Belgium. After studying art history in England, Janssens attended La Cambre National School of Visual Arts in Brussels, Belgium. Janssens has had numerous solo exhibitions worldwide, most recently including South London Gallery, London, UK (2020); Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk, Denmark (2020); Blue Project Foundation, Barcelona, Spain (2020) and Dongdaemun Design Plaza (Ddp), Seoul, South Korea (2020). Other major solo exhibitions and projects include the Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, Finland (2018); Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD (2018) and Art Basel, Basel, Switzerland (2014). Major group exhibitions include Den Fri Udstilling, Copenhagen, Denmark (2020); Fondation Pinault, Venice, Italy (2019); TANK, Shanghai, China (2019); Hayward Gallery, London, UK (2018) and Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan (2015). Janssens' work has also been included in numerous international art events, such as the 48th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy (1999); Sharjah Biennale 14, United Arab Emirates (2019); 18th Biennale of Sydney, Sydney, Australia (2012) and more recently Les Garages Numériques Digital Arts Festival 2019, Beursplein, Brussels (2019), amongst others.

About Simon Lee Gallery

Founded in London in 2002, Simon Lee Gallery represents artists of diverse generations whose practices explore a wide range of media, from sculpture and painting to video and photography, and who share a broad interest in an exploration of the conceptual. Aiming to provide a significant international audience for its artists, the gallery also regularly punctuates its programme with historical exhibitions and curated group shows, which present shifts in contemporary art practice and thought, whilst broadening the dialogue with artists outside of the gallery's core programme. In addition to its UK activity, in 2012 the gallery opened a space in Hong Kong, which introduced its artists to a wider public in Asia, with a fully independent programme. In 2014, Simon Lee Gallery opened an office and private viewing space in New York. In 2017, this space was re-launched with a year-round programme of exhibitions and events, showcasing the work of emerging and established artists in dynamic group and solo exhibitions.

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter: @SimonLeeGallery
www.simonleegallery.com

Image: Daan van Golden, *Untitled (Tokyo)*, 1964. Japanese lacquer on canvas, framed, unique, 57.7 x 55.8 cm (22 3/4 x 22 in.) Courtesy the artist and Micheline Szwajcer.

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