

KETELEER GALLERY is very pleased to present “?!”, a solo exhibition by Leo Copers (°1947. Ghent, BE). The artist's second solo exhibition with the gallery will comprise an installation consisting of an entirely new series of works.

Leo Copers is mostly known for his sculptures, installations and performances, and has since the beginning of his artistic practice obtained a unique place in the Belgian art scene.

Going against the tide, Copers started to reintroduce metaphors and symbols into a visually conceptual practice. By using antagonistic objects, in surreal and alienating combinations, he aims at creating tensions, both figuratively and literally. His objects and installations are on – and often over – the edge of being alarmingly dangerous and destructive and thus challenge our built-in expectations in a very visceral way. Water, fire and electricity for example are often connected in a way that makes us cringe with fear while being moved by its poetic beauty. On the verge of danger, on the edge of life.

For Copers the material results and their effect on the audience are superior to the mere thought process from which the work originated. He leaves behind the sterile, uninvolved conceptual art of his peers.

His work can be seen as a link between the minimalist visual language of his generation, fluxus and the Belgian legacy of anti-establishment irony and poetic surrealism.

In 2018 the leading Belgian art institutes S.M.A.K. Ghent, M HKA Antwerp, Middelheimmuseum Antwerp and BOZAR Brussels, celebrated Leo Copers's 50th anniversary as an artist with unique solo exhibitions and the publication of a new book 'Leo Copers, Dreams are made of this', the most detailed overview of his work so far.

The exhibition will be on view 25 September until 23 October, 2022.