

GALERIE KRINZINGER · SEILERSTÄTTE 16 · 1010 WIEN

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HANS OP DE BEECK

Curiosities, Constellations and Vanishing Points

Opening: November 27, 7pm

Duration: November 28, 2025 – February 18, 2026

Following his acclaimed solo exhibition 'Nocturnal Journey' at the Royal Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp, Belgian artist Hans Op de Beeck now opens his newest solo exhibition 'Curiosities, Constellations and Vanishing Points' at Galerie Krinzinger, presenting a cohesive collection of new sculptures and an animated film. This exhibition consists of two parts: a Wunderkammer and a projection space with Op de Beeck's latest animation film, entirely based on black-and-white watercolour paintings.

The first part of the exhibition resembles a large Wunderkammer, in which references to the dichotomy of culture versus nature are eclectically and anachronistically intertwined, as was the tradition in old cabinets of curiosities. This body of works contains numerous references to fossilised natural elements, animals, mysticism, planetariums, astronomy, early science, oral traditions and imagery as well as allusions to contemporary digital imaging and semantics. Furthermore, through a reflection on human macro-organisms, such as the architectural grids of cities, the artist also -curiously- arrived at what looks like abstract modernist compositions. For the first time Op de Beeck uses both text and kinetic components in some of his sculptural works, such as planetariums rotating on their axis or a life-size crow flying in place. The works in the Wunderkammer section poetically question our relationship to the immensity of the universe, as well as the banal world of everyday life. They play with the classical, existential idea of the 'memento mori'. Nevertheless, this part of the exhibition also contains light-hearted, playful and ludicrous elements in which the artist takes the liberty of making illogical and absurd leaps through free association.

The second part of the exhibition is a film, titled 'Vanishing Point', which refers to a point in a picture plane of a perspective view where mutual parallel lines seem to converge. At the distance of a vanishing point, we can no longer perceive three-dimensional depth. Op de Beeck uses the term metaphorically, as a tipping point from which we shift from measurability and legibility into the unknown, indecipherable, and incomprehensible, or from the concrete to the abstract, mental to spiritual. The film starts with the image of a little boy resting peacefully on his back with his eyes closed. Next, we are transported to fictional landscapes, still lifes and figures, musically accompanied by a specially created composition by composer-musician Sam Vloemans, performed by the Hermes Ensemble (B). Together with the music, the watercolours are brought to life creating a sweeping, tranquil mood that invites one to briefly disappear into a moment of letting go.

'Vanishing', on its own, means 'disappearing suddenly and completely', or, in mathematical terms, 'becoming zero'. Op de Beeck is fascinated by the moments when, as human beings, we briefly become nothing or nobody—when we let go of our linguistic, logical, and rational understanding of the world and slip into a state of self-loss and timelessness.

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Hans Op de Beeck (born in 1969 in Turnhout, Belgien) works across a wide variety of media and forms, steadily developing a versatile body of work that includes immersive installations and sculptures, video works, texts and drawings, photography, and watercolor paintings. For the past decade, Op de Beeck has also been active in theater, opera, and contemporary dance as a playwright, stage director, scenographer, and costume designer. He is perhaps best known for his monumental, immersive, sensorial installations: enigmatic, fictional scenes frozen in time that visitors can walk through or sit within, evoking silent contemplation and moments of wonder. His distinctive body of work delves into the complex relationship between humans and the world around us, while also addressing universal questions about the meaning of life.

He has held substantial institutional solo exhibitions at various prominent venues, including: GEM Museum of Contemporary Art, The Hague, The Netherlands (2004); MUHKA Museum of Contemporary Art, Antwerp, Belgium (2006); Centraal Museum, Utrecht, The Netherlands (2007); Towada Art Center, Japan (2008); Galleria Borghese, Rome, Italy (2009); The Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, USA (2010); Kunstmuseum Thun, Switzerland (2011); Centro de Arte Caja de Burgos, Spain (2011); Butler Gallery, Kilkenny, Ireland (2012); Kunstverein Hanover, Germany (2012); Tampa Museum of Art, USA (2013); Harn Museum of Art, Gainesville, USA (2013); FRAC Paca, Marseille, France (2013); MIT List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge, USA (2014); MOCA Cleveland, USA (2014); Sammlung Goetz, Munich, Germany (2014); Screen Space, Melbourne, Australia (2015); Le 104, Paris, France (2016); Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Germany (2017); Fondazione Pino Pascali, Polignano a Mare, Italy (2017); Kunstraum Dornbirn, Austria (2017); Museum Morsbroich, Leverkusen, Germany (2017); Scheepvaartmuseum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands (2018); Kunsthalle Krems, Krems an der Donau, Austria (2019); Amos Rex Museum, Helsinki, Finland (2022); The Nordic Watercolour Museum, Skärhamn, Sweden (2024), The Royal Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium (2025).

Op de Beeck has participated in numerous group exhibitions at institutions including: Museo Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain; Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Arizona, USA; ZKM, Karlsruhe, Germany; MACRO, Rome, Italy; Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, UK; MoMA PS1, New York, USA; Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France; Wallraf-Richartz Museum, Cologne, Germany; Hangar Bicocca, Milan, Italy; Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan; 21C Museum, Louisville, Kentucky, USA; The Drawing Center, New York, USA; Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna, Austria; Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai, China; MAMBA, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany; Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna, Italy; Kunstmuseum Bonn, Germany; the State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia; Den Frie Center of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, Denmark; Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Brussels, Belgium; Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt am Main, Germany; Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf, Germany; Tate Modern, London, UK.

His work has been featured in prestigious art events such as the Venice Biennale, Italy; the Shanghai Biennale, China; the Aichi Triennale, Japan; the Singapore Biennale, Singapore; the Kochi-Muziris Biennale, India; Art Basel/ Art Unlimited, Basel, Switzerland; Setouchi Triennale, Shodoshima, Japan; Bruges Triennale, Belgium; the Lyon Biennale, France, and many other international art events.