

Escape Line II - Drawings and Sculptures

Charles Avery, Pascal Berthoud, Yifat Bezalel, Claude Cortinavis,
Robert Longo, Giuliano Macca, Hans Op de Beeck

November 12, 2021 - January 30, 2022

Gowen gallery is delighted to continue its gallery program with a second exhibition in its new spaces at Grand-Rue 23. The collective show entitled *Escape Line II - Drawings and Sculptures* gathers seven contemporary artists for whom drawing is at the centre of their artistic expression, although several pursue multidisciplinary practices. In addition to drawing, sculpture is, for some of them, a particularly coherent part of their visual language. The show focuses on the creation of imaginary universes that often transport the spectator to parallel worlds as its meeting point. The exhibition includes works from private collections.



Hans Op de Beeck

Hans Op de Beeck's sculptures and works on paper are inhabited by a theatrical silence. Sculptures coated with a distinctive grey layer give a velvet-like appearance which petrifies characters, objects and emotions. Extraordinarily detailed representations of interiors or landscapes in watercolour convey the viewer into timeless atmospheres, through melancholy digressions on the human condition in which to self-contemplate and reflect.

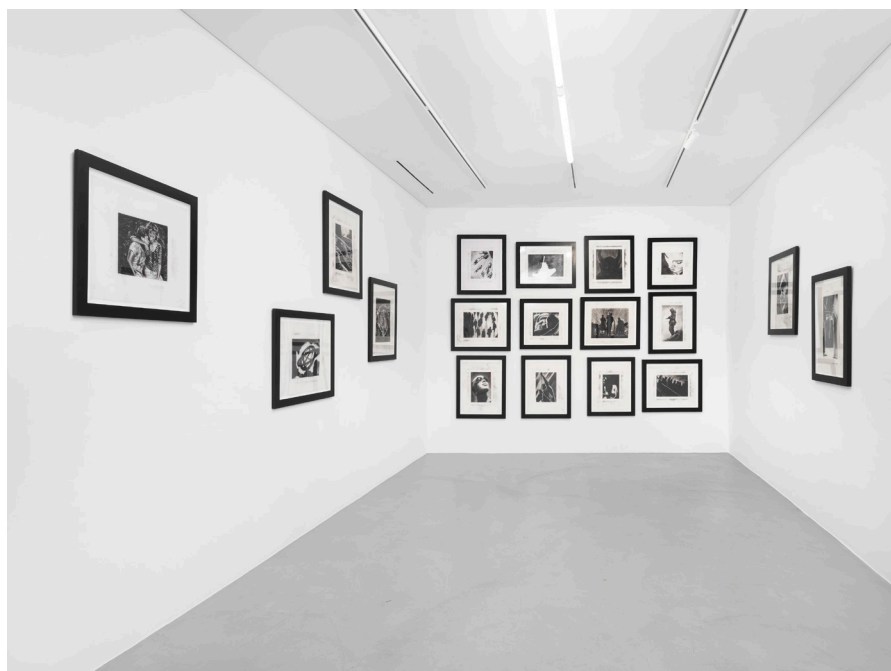
Hans Op de Beeck was born in Turnhout (Belgium) in 1969. He lives and works in Brussels. Solo exhibition include: Gallery Continua, San Gimignano, IT (2021); The State Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg, RU (2021); Kunsthalle Krems, Krems an der Donau, AT (2019); Scheepvaartmuseum, Amsterdam, NL (2018); Museum Morsbroich, Leverkusen, DE (2017); Kunstraum Dornbirn, DE (2017); Fondazione Pino Pascali, Polignano a Mare, IT (2017); Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Wolfsburg, DE (2017); Espace 104, Paris, FR (2016); Screen Space, Melbourne, AU (2015); Sammlung Goetz, Munich, DE (2014); MOCA, Cleveland, US (2014); MIT List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge, US (2014); FRAC Paca, Marseille, FR (2013); Harn Museum of Art, Gainesville, FL, US (2013); Tampa Museum of Art, Tampa, US (2013); Kunstverein Hanover, DE (2012); Centro de Arte Caja de Burgos, Burgos, ES (2011); Kunstmuseum Thun, CH (2011); Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, US (2010); Towada Art Center, Towada, JP (2008); Centraal Museum, Utrecht, NL (2007); MUHKA Museum of Contemporary Art, Antwerp, BE (2006); GEM Museum of Contemporary Art, The Hague, NL (2004). His work was invited for the Venice Biennale, Venice, IT; the Shanghai Biennale, Shanghai, CN; the Aichi Triennale, Aichi, JP; the Singapore Biennale, Singapore, SG; Art Summer University, Tate Modern, London, GB; the Kochi-Muziris Biennale, IN; Art Basel Miami Beach, US; Art Basel Unlimited, Basel, CH; Setouchi Triennale, Shodoshima, JP; Sculpture in the Courtyard, The State Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg, RU; Bruges Triennale, BE, and many other art events.



Charles Avery

In 2004, **Charles Avery** embarked on a singular investigation titled *The Islanders*, describing a fictitious world with its own culture, geography, population, flora and fauna. Avery's world is presented in the form of an archipelago, or a territory that he aspires to discover, little by little throughout his life, at the same time, inventing it as he goes along. His work as artist-narrator chronicles a civilization which went before him. Maps, drawings, objects, sculptures and portraits are intended to share his discoveries as artist-explorer, his encounters with the unfamiliar inhabitants of the islands, and his reflections on the cosmology, geography and social organization of the mapped territory.

Charles Avery was born in 1973 in Oban (Scotland). He currently lives and works in London. Solo exhibitions include: Vistamarestudio, Milan, IT (2021); GRIMM, New York, NY, US (2021); GRIMM, Amsterdam, NL (2020, 2016); Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK (2019, 2015); David Roberts Art Foundation, London, UK (2017); Pilar Corrias Gallery, London, UK (2017, 2016, 2013, 2011, 2010); Edinburgh Art Festival, Edinburgh, UK (2015); GEM, Museum for Contemporary Art, The Hague, NL (2015); ICA Studio, London, UK (2015). Recent group exhibitions include: GRIMM, New York, NY, US (2021, 2019, 2018); Frestonian Gallery, London, UK (2020); Fries Museum, Leeuwarden, NL (2020); Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK (2019); Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh, UK (2019); Wilhelm Hack Museum, Ludwigshafen am Rhein, DE (2018); Museum Voorlinden, Wassenaar, NL (2018); Palazzo Franchetti, 57th Biennale di Venezia, Venice, IT (2017). Avery's work can be found in the collections of Tate, London (UK); Arts Council England Collection, London (UK); Kunstmuseum, The Hague (NL); Edinburgh City Art Centre Collection, Edinburgh (UK); Museum Voorlinden, Wassenaar (NL); Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam (NL); and David Roberts Art Foundation, London (UK), amongst others.



Robert Longo

Robert Longo's historic "Magellan" from 1996, of which eighteen pieces are presented in the exhibition, comprises 366 drawings (one per day for an entire year), each the size of a television screen. The series is dominated by content from the 'here and now'. Motifs from films, advertising and other media prevail, along with images of rock stars and concerts, sports heroes, the artist's family, politicians, news events, animals and landscapes. In short, they are depictions of Longo's personal and cultural habitat. These unrelated drawings, a number of which hint at photographs, are not placed in any particular hierarchical order. Such random consideration conceivably reflects the absurdity of modern day media bombardment. With adept technical skill, the artist, perhaps intentionally, gives many of these drawings the suggestion of photocopied documents or black and white television images, it is almost as if he has left his black and white television switched on for a day or two. The universe to which we are transported, in this case, is the external world perceived through the iconography conveyed by mass media. Might we be observing a nineties version of Bepko's digital work NFT "Everydays: the First 5,000 Days" ?

Robert Longo was born in 1953 in Brooklyn, New York, and now lives and works in New York, New York. Recent solo Exhibition include: Pace Gallery, New York (2021); Palm Springs Art Museum, California (2021); Jeffrey Deitch, Los Angeles (2020); Metro Pictures, New York (2019-1997); Hall Art Foundation, Schloss Derneburg Museum, Germany (2019); Cahiers d'Art, Paris (2016); The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, Connecticut (2013). Recent Group Exhibition include: British Museum, London (2020); Helmut Newton Foundation, Berlin (2019); Musée national Picasso, Paris (2018); MAC - Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal (2017). Collections include: Centre Pompidou, Paris; Fondazione Prada, Milan, Italy; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; Fundação de Serralves - Museu de Arte Contemporânea, Porto, Portugal; Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, the Netherlands; Tate, London; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; National Gallery of Australia, Canberra.



Yifat Bezalel

Yifat Bezalel and Giuliano Macca present new large scale works specifically created for the exhibition. A nearly four-metre installation by Macca simulates a volcanic landscape in which large mountains mingle with human bodies in a representation which incorporates a mythical character. Strength, fire and energy appear to seek a form with which to fuse themselves. Here, the viewer bears witness to the artists' own introspective journey in his native Sicily, on the slopes of Etna, and further into the human soul. Bezalel's monumental work on paper, on the contrary, replicates imaginary architectures populated by evanescent sculptures and figures, as delicate presences in a mental space. It is Bezalel's parallel world, where the spirit is pure and uncontaminated and where no borders exist, a sort of conscious and sublimated version of reality and the anguish that goes with it.

Yifat Bezalel was born in 1975 in Tel Aviv and studied at the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design in Jerusalem. She currently lives and works in Tel Aviv. Solo exhibitions include: Tel Aviv Museum, Tel Aviv, IL (2017-18); Lexus Gallery, London (2017); Uziel Family Gallery, London (2014); VIDA Museum Borgholm, Se (2012). Group exhibitions include: The Negev Museum of Art, Israel (2015); Biennale di Venezia, Palazzo Bembo, Venice (2013); travelling exhibition at the Tate Liverpool, the MART Rovereto and the Kunsthalle Hamburg (2011-2012). Bezalel was the recipient of numerous prizes including the Rappaport Prize for Young Israeli Artist in 2016. Since 2010, Yifat Bezalel is represented by Gowen Contemporary, that exhibited her work in 2011, 2013 and 2014.

Giuliano Macca was born in Noto, Sicily in 1988 and is a graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts in Rome. Solo exhibitions include: Etra studio Tommasi, Florence, IT (2020); Rvb Arts, Rome, IT (2019); Mirabilia Art Gallery, Rome, IT (2018); MAAM, Rome, IT (2016). Group Exhibition include: Museo Diocesano di Padova, Padova, IT (2019); Café de las Delicias, Barcellona, ESP (2017); Arezzo, IT (2011). Collection include: MAAM (Museum of the Other and the Elsewhere), Rome, Italy; Raffaele Curi, Rome, Italy; Andrea Guerra, Rome, Italy; Vittorio Sgarbi, Ferrara, Italy.



Giuliano Macca

Pascal Berthoud's line of escape is that of a fragmented reality that reflects the contemporary society perceived as divided and dysfunctional. Matter disintegrates and dematerializes in abstract visions that barely retain the traces of the once-there architecture, knowledge, emotions or constituent elements.

Pascal Berthoud was born in Geneva in 1971. He lives and works in Geneva. Solo Exhibition include: Gowen Contemporary, Geneva (2019); Galerie Elizabeth Couturier, Lyon (2018, 2016, 2015); Galerie Gourvennec Ogor, Marseille, FR (2016); Galerie Analix Forever, Geneva, CH (2016); Museum of Fine Arts, Douai (Lille), FR (2015). Group exhibition include: Musée Jenisch, Vevey, CH (2021); Galeries du Forum Meyrin, Meyrin, CH (2020); Gowen Contemporary, Geneva, CH (2017, 2018, 2021); Metro Pictures Gallery, New York (2017); Galerie Heinzer Reszler, Lausanne (2017); ArtBrussels, Brussels (2016); DDessin, Ateliers Richelieu, Paris (2016); White Project Gallery, Paris (2016); Artissima, Turin (2015); Pavillon de l'Arsenal, architectural center of the city of Paris, Paris (2015); Fragmentation, Contemporary Art Biennial, Douai (2015). Collections include: Musée Jenisch, Vevey, CH; Musée d'art et d'histoire, Geneva, CH; Fonds cantonal d'art contemporain de Genève, Geneva, CH; Ville de Lancy, CH; Collection Varenne SA, Geneva, CH; Fonds d'art visuel de Chêne-Bougeries, CH; Fonds d'art visuel de Cologny, CH; Darier and Hentsch Collection, Geneva, CH.



Pascal Berthoud



Claude Cortinovis

The exhibition concludes with the photographs of **Claude Cortinovis** from the 1990s whose surfaces are entirely and obsessively covered by a single handwritten sentence repeated thousands of times over. It reads: 'I was here and I couldn't see anything'. Photographed forest images entice the viewer to enter the visual space, but it is the sentence which comes into focus on approaching the works that serves as the key to opening the door to reflection, at first, on the perception of reality.

Claude Cortinovis was born in 1967 in Geneva where he lives and works. Solo exhibition include: **Gowen Contemporary, Geneva, (2018); Keitelman Gallery, Brussels, BE (2014, 2008, 2002); ONE contemporary art gallery, Verbier, CH (2011); Galerie Gisèle Linder, Basel, CH (2007); Galerie Mitterrand+Cramer, Geneva, CH (2004); Centre de la photographie, Geneva, CH (1997); Nouvelle Galerie, Grenoble, FR (1997); Palais de l'Athénée, Salle Crosnier, Geneva (1993).** Group Exhibition: **Gowen Contemporary, Geneva, CH (2020, 2020, 2018); Musée Jenisch, Vevey, CH (2021); Centre d'Art Contemporain d'Yverdon, Yverdon-les-Bains, CH (2020, 2017); Espace des Télégraphes, Lausanne, CH (2015); Villa Empain - Boghossian Foundation, Brussels, BE (2011); FLUXmUSEum, Pagosa Springs Colorado, USA (2010); RNG Gallery, Omaha Nebraska, USA (2010); Galerie Gisèle Linder, Basel (2009); Hall-Palermo à la Kunsthalle Palazzo, Liestal, Basel, CH (2001); Espace Arlaud, Lausanne, CH (1998); Centre de la photographie, Bienne, CH (1998); Collection du FCDAV au Palais Wilson, Geneva, CH (1998); 5th international photography triennial in Tampere, Nyky aika, Tampere, FIN (1998); Galerie Rosa Turetsky, Geneva, CH (1996); Palais de l'Athénée, Salle Crosnier, Geneva (1990).** Collection include; **MoMA, NY and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, CA; Société suisse de radiodiffusion et télévision, Bern, CH; UBS Art Collection, Geneva, CH; Fonds Cantonal d'Art Contemporain (FCAC), Geneva, CH; Fonds Municipal d'Art Contemporain (FMAC), Geneva, CH.**

Through its diverse escape lines, the exhibition examines the representation of the relationship between the real and the imagined, and between outer and inner worlds.

(Trad. : Alexia Green)



Contact: T. +41(0)79 330 17 54 | info@gowencontemporary.com
Grand-Rue 23, 1204 Geneva