

Press file

B R U
G G E

MUSEA
BRUGGE

Strook

30.10.'21—
06.03.'22

Groeningemuseum | O.L.V.-kerk | Sint-Janshospitaal



Mind the Artist

with the support of



Vlaanderen
verbeelding werkt

VU: Colin Beheydt,
algemeen directeur
Stad en OCMW Brugge
Ontwerp: pjoz.be





Exhibition Strook 'It's only a matter of time'

"I have noticed how concrete memories and feelings constantly diminish and crumble. Time eats away at them, just like it eats away at an old piece of wood. My memories become a mental construction, a monument that I have created inside my own head."

- Strook

Stefaan De Croock (°1982), alias Strook, is a contemporary Belgian artist. He obtained a master's degree in the visual arts at the Sint-Lucas School of Art in Ghent. Since then, he has been pushing his artistic boundaries further and further, both literally and figuratively. His increasingly layered and meaningful collages, sculptures, installations and paintings have already been exhibited to wide international acclaim in Stockholm, Miami, Bangkok, Montreal and Mexico City.

The central theme of his oeuvre can be summarised in the single word 'time', a phenomenon that has always inspired Strook. This is evident in, amongst other things, his choice of raw materials. Within the framework of 'Mind the Artist', the arts festival organised by Musea Brugge, Stefaan went in search of patinated materials that he found in and around various heritage locations in Bruges. In this way, the city's rich historical past forms the basis for several new installations and works of art.

In his eyes, there is something magical about old and weathered materials. They exude a kind of spontaneity that it is impossible to reproduce. The colours, the paint, the relief,... Together, they create an aesthetic footprint of everything the material has ever experienced. You can literally see 'time' incorporated into its substance. For the artist, it is a privilege to work with such materials.

SAMPLES OF HISTORICAL LOCATIONS

For this exhibition, Strook is making new work that will be displayed at three historical locations in Bruges: the Onze-Lieve-Vrouwekerk, the attic of the medieval Sint-Janshospitaal and the Groeningemuseum. He wants to capture the invisible history of these places and absorb it into his art. With this in mind, he has made plaster

casts of parts of the floor in all three buildings. This allowed him to 'sample' the patina and the soul of these three locations, where countless people pass every day almost without thinking. The casts have resulted in a work in ceramics: a portrait into which the centuries' old stories of the locations have - quite literally - been fused.

In the Groeningemuseum, Strook confronts his new work with the stately portraits of the museum's permanent collection. For the first time, the artist is using a large piece of marble as an element in one of his own portraiture pieces. This material reflects the pomp and splendour that the museum's portraits exude. Yet at the same time, marble - like weathered wood - contains traces that reveal the passage of time, which in the case of this natural material dates back millions of years, which immediately places the 'eternal value' of the noblemen in the museum's paintings in a different perspective. The material even questions our human existence in the light of history.

MONUMENTAL WORK IN THE O.L.V.-KERK

The insignificance of human beings is also the subject of the site-specific 'head' that Strook has made for the Onze-Lieve-Vrouwekerk. He depicts an ordinary person, but on a monumental scale. The serenity and introspective posture of the portrait matches the sacred nature of the location. However, he enlarges the nothingness and fragility of everyday human existence into a relief figure that is no less than 3.4 metres high. This creates a striking contrast with the interior of this Catholic church, where a format of that size is only used for huge biblical paintings or sculptures of the saints that are intended to inspire awe and deep respect.

In the attic of the Sint-Janshospitaal Strook plans to exhibit a number of free-standing sculptures, such as 'One More Day IV' and 'One More Day V'; steel display cases with mat glass, in which a bust - made from recuperated wooden slats - seems to disappear. This mat-glass shell around the figure not only creates distance between the sculpture and the viewers, but also makes a true 'meeting' impossible. From afar, you can see the contours of a figure, but as you move

closer the figures fade and are transformed into unreachable wraiths, like a fata morgana of memory.

Strook shows in his work how everything is transitory, especially when the weight of time starts to press down on it. Time is not tangible. You cannot hold it in your hands; you can only give expression to it. In this way, you can regard Strook's art as a kind of mental architecture that brings together a collection of receding remembrances and thoughts. His works are pieces of a distorted reality, collages of imaginary ruins. Mental spaces and monuments to memories that are slowly fading.

"People sometimes say that my heads exude a certain sacrality. I see it like this: whoever looks at my work is contemplating the invincibility of time and the nothingness of mankind."

- Strook

Publication

Portraits: first monograph on Strook

On the occasion of the exhibition at Musea Brugge, Strook's first book is also published by Hannibal Books. This monograph is a first introduction to his oeuvre and offers a fascinating view of his artistic practice in recent years.

With texts by Thijs Demeulemeester and a contribution by Wannes Cappelle, Koen Van Damme and Stephan Vanfleteren.

Finish: Hardcover

Number of pages: 160

Size: 33,6 x 24 cm

Sale price: € 59,00

Dutch-English bilingual edition

ISBN 978 94 6436 603 7

www.hannibalbooks.be



Curriculum vitae



Personalia

Strook - Stefaan De Croock
+32 474 43 08 01
stefaan@strook.eu
www.strook.eu
Instagram: strook_be

Exhibitions

Upcoming

Solo Exhibition – Diskus – Aalst – Belgium
Group show ‘The New Portrait’ – størpunkt gallery for contemporary art – Munich – Germany

Current

Exhibition ‘It’s only a matter of time’ – Musea Brugge – Bruges – Belgium
Group show ‘A Butterfly’s Scream’ – PAK – Psychiatrisch Centrum Sint-Amandus – Beernem – Belgium

2020

Installation ‘Portrait of a human being’ – OMG! Van Eyck was here – Ghent – Belgium

2019

Solo Exhibition ‘One More Day’ – Transfo – Zwevegem – Belgium
Kunstenfestival Watou 2019 – Watou – Belgium
Groupshow ‘Niewiem’ – d’OedeSchole – Damme – Belgium
Group show ‘Chambres Separees’ – PAK, platform voor actuele kunsten – Gistel – Belgium
Solo Exhibition ‘Untold’ – JLS Gallery – Mexico City – Mexico
Art Wynwood Fair – Robert Fontaine Gallery – Miami, FL – USA
Palm Beach Modern & Contemporary Art Fair – Robert Fontaine Gallery – Palm Beach, FL – USA

2018

Art Miami – Robert Fontaine Gallery – Miami, FL – USA
Installation ‘Obrońca’ at the Imperial Shipyard – Gdańsk – Poland
Group show – JLS Gallery – Mexico City – Mexico
Group show ‘Contemporary Transformations’ – Duke Contemporary Art Space – Bangkok – Thailand
Palm Beach Modern & Contemporary Art Fair – Robert Fontaine Gallery – Palm Beach, FL – USA

2017

Group show ‘Summertime ’17’ – Galleri Christoffer Egelund – Copenhagen – Denmark
Group show ‘There is no limit’ – Curated by Thinkspace – No Limit Festival in Borås – Sweden
Artfair Mural Festival (17.muralfestival.com) – Montreal – Canada
Group show ‘Anamorphic Portraiture’ – Mirus Gallery – San Francisco, CA – USA
Group show ‘LAX/DTW: Detroit Hustle II’ – Curated by Thinkspace at Inner State Gallery – Detroit, MI – USA
Mural for The Crystal Ship (www.thecrystalship.org) – Ostend – Belgium

2016

Exhibition upcoming artists – The Flanders Informal Summit – Bijloke – Ghent – Belgium
 Exhibition (with Stien Bekaert) – ARTBEAT Ghent Festival 2016 – Eskimo Factory – Ghent – Belgium
 Group Exhibition – ‘Remix’ – Galerie C.O.A – Montreal – Canada
 Installation – Art Truc Troc – Bozar – Brussels – Belgium

2015

Solo Exhibition – Budafabriek at Buda Arts Center – Kortrijk – Belgium
 Exhibition curated by Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens – Huis Van Wassenhove – Sint-Martens-Latem – Belgium
 Selected for the Christie’s and paddle 8 auction at Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens – Deurle – Belgium
 Digital artwork – Vooruit Arts Center – Ghent – Belgium
 Atelier Bonk – pop-up expo ‘Rue de Flandre’ – Paris – France
 Mural and Expo Mechelen Muurt – Mechelen – Belgium
 Exhibition ‘Merkemveld’ – private viewing – Bruges – Belgium

2014

Exhibition ‘RASTERS’ – Die Keure – Bruges – Belgium
 Exhibition Summer Josephine’s – Antwerp – Belgium
 Belgian Pavilion MIPIM – Cannes – France
 Mural ‘Wood & Paint’ – London Calling – Bruges – Belgium
 Mural – Vooruit & Voka – Ghent – Belgium

2013

Exhibition ‘Ontmaskerd’ – Het Schepenhuis – Oedelem – Belgium
 Life Performance Salone Del Mobile – Atelier Bonk – Milan – Italy
 Life Performance ITB Berlin – Visit Flanders – Berlin – Germany
 Exhibition Kapow Collective – Warmond – The Netherlands
 Mural and Expo – Day One Street Art Festival – Luchtbal – Antwerp – Belgium
 Mural – HANSEstreetartWORKS – MARTa Museum – Herford – Germany

2012

Co-founder – Designlabel Atelier Bonk (www.atelierbonk.be)
 Exhibition De Invasie in residence, Metropolis – Concertgebouw Brugge – Bruges – Belgium
 First prize Urban Crafts Award

Selected online auction – Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens – Deurle – Belgium
 Exhibition ‘The Wall’ – Strook & Stijn Bastianen – Entrepot – Bruges – Belgium
 Exhibition ‘60 years O’neill’ – Santa Cruz – United States
 Exhibition Kapow Collective – Blankenberge – Belgium
 Exhibition ‘Strook’ – Theo Gallery – Antwerp – Belgium
 Life Performance Kask- De Invasie van Gent – Ghent – Belgium

2011

Reverse Art installation – Stuk art center – Leuven – Belgium
 Exhibition ‘The ART Lounge’ – International Airport Ostend-Bruges – Ostend – Belgium
 Life Performance C-mine – De Invasie – Genk – Belgium
 Life Performance Belgium Bookfair – Lannoo – Antwerp – Belgium

2010

Exhibition ‘Strook’ – CC Scharpoord – Knokke-Heist – Belgium



Practical info exhibition

Title	Strook - 'It's only a matter of time'
Locations	Groeningemuseum, Dijver 12, 8000 Bruges O.L.V.-kerk, Mariastraat, 8000 Bruges Sint-Janshospitaal, Mariastraat 38, 8000 Bruges
Dates	from 30 October 2021 up to and including 6 March 2022*
Opening times	from Tuesday to Sunday from 9.30 to 17 hrs. Closed on Mondays, except for the O.L.V.-kerk. Closed on 25 December and 1 January.
Tickets	€ 18 € 15 (red.) [permanente exhibition included] via www.museabrugge.be/tickets free up to 12 years and Bruges inhabitants
Info	www.mindtheartist.be

* Attention: the attic of the Sint-Janshospitaal will be closed from 22 to 26 November 2021 due to an event. The entrance ticket is valid for one visit to each location for the entire duration of the exhibition.

IMAGES IN HIGH RESOLUTION

Images to promote this exhibition can be downloaded via the following link:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/museabrugge/albums>

Please mention the correct credits to be found with each photo.

MORE INFO

All arrangements can be made via the press officer of Musea Brugge,

tom.deschacht@brugge.be or t +32 50 47 23 81.

Press visits to the exhibition are possible by appointment (see www.museabrugge.be/en/press). The press file can also be consulted online and texts can be copied via www.museabrugge.be/en/press.

REQUEST

We collect every possible review of our museums and events. Therefore we would like to ask you to send a copy of any article you publish, or a link to the relevant broadcast, to tom.deschacht@brugge.be.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest.

MUSEABRUGGE.BE #MUSEABRUGGE #MINDTHEARTIST #EXPOSTROOK #STROOK



Strook / Portrait R II 21



Strook / Portrait R I 21



Strook / MMXXI ceramic black



Strook / atmospheric image O.L.V.-kerk



Strook / One More Day I detail



Strook / One More Day I



Strook / atmospheric image Groeningemuseum



Strook / atmospheric image Groeningemuseum



Strook / atmospheric image Groeningemuseum

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Mind the Artist

The unexpectedly long duration of the corona crisis has turned the entire cultural sector on its head. Artists are hit especially hard. With 'Mind the Artist' Musea Brugge invests for a year in the remarkably versatile and creative talent that our country possesses. Musea Brugge connects artists from every possible discipline - including photographers, authors, visual artists or musicians - with its existing museum collections.

A number of artistic centres have even programmed a takeover in one or more museum locations. Discover everything you need to know about this inspirational dialogue between contemporary art and old(er) art on

www.mindtheartist.be

B R U G G E MUSEA BRUGGE **11.12.2020 — 13.03.2022**

Mind the Artist

Nele Van Canneyt

Delphine Lecompte

SEADS

Sanam Khatibi **Strook**

Pieter Chanterie

Tille Pepermans

Line Boogaerts

to be continued...

Takeovers by **KAAP** **MOCCOV**

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