

DAUWENS & BEERNAERT
GALLERY



Avenue de Stalingrad 26 - 1000 Brussels
www.dauwensbeernaert.com

OLTRALPE

“The journey of an Italian artist across the Alps to Flanders”

“Oltralpe” is an Italian word that indicates everything that lies beyond the Alps mountain range and that separates the north from the south of Europe.

“Oltralpe” is the imaginary journey of an Italian artist forced by events to leave his country of ruins and set off northwards, crossing the Alps on foot towards Flanders.

He brings what he can save, what he can testify and what has formed him as an artist.

In this case architecture, paintings, sculptures, texts and evidence of a glorious past now disappearing.

To reach the north, the great obstacle of the mountains stands before him as a necessary effort.

The celestial constellations show the way and outline his dangerous journey. Once crossed, new countries open to him and his poetics; which soaked up by a classicism that an Italian artist cannot escape, faces new styles.

The meeting with the leading artists of Northern European art made him discover what he had never known before, c'est à dire, that ante litteram expressionism that identifies itself in the pain of bodies and postures.

Grunewald, Bosch, Bruegel, the Flemish primitives and others force him into new sculptural and painting ways and manners. The south and the north thus mix up into a new and bastard form, between Western culture in full decadence and Nordic expressive power that is still very much alive.

The large facades of Lombard cathedrals join altars formed by figures tortured by a pain unknown to Italian, but emblematic of great Flemish art.

This journey crosses more than five centuries of Western art history and gives life to a large collective composition in which the voices and dialogues between different artists give concrete form to a 360° exhibition itinerary dominated by a sky full of ancient stars and contemporary satellites.



Werther Gasperini

"Autoportrait en survolant les Alpes", 2024
cire

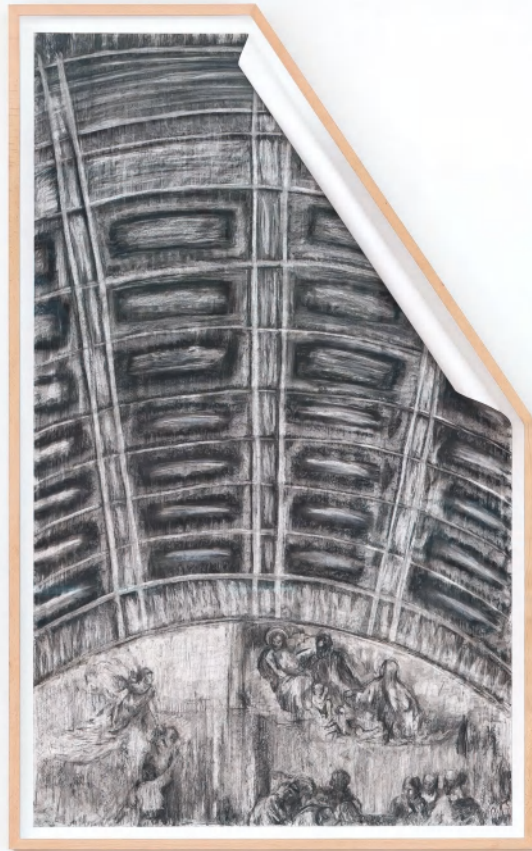
110 x 60 x 50 cm





Werther Gasperini
"San Satiro", 2024
Fusain sur carton
340 x 360 cm

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Werther Gasperini
"San Satiro", 2024
Fusain sur carton
340 x 360 cm



Werther Gasperini
"Saint Jean", 2024
Cire
240 x 110 x 100 cm



Detail



Detail



Werther Gasperini

"La Vierge", 2024

cire

250 x 100 x 80 cm



Detail



Isenheim Altarpiece, Nikolaus Hagenauer
and Matthias Grünewald, c 1512–1516



Detail



Werther Gaseprini

"Christ", 2024

cire

100 x 70 cm



Werther Gasperini

"Pelgrim", 2024

cire

98 x 50 cm



Werther Gasperini
"Christ", 2024
cire
58 x 50 cm



Werther Gasperini

"Alpes", 2024

fer et cire

196 x 50 cm



Werther Gasperini

"Alpes", 2024

cire

140 x 180 cm



Werther Gasperini
"Alpes", 2024
cire
125 x 87 cm



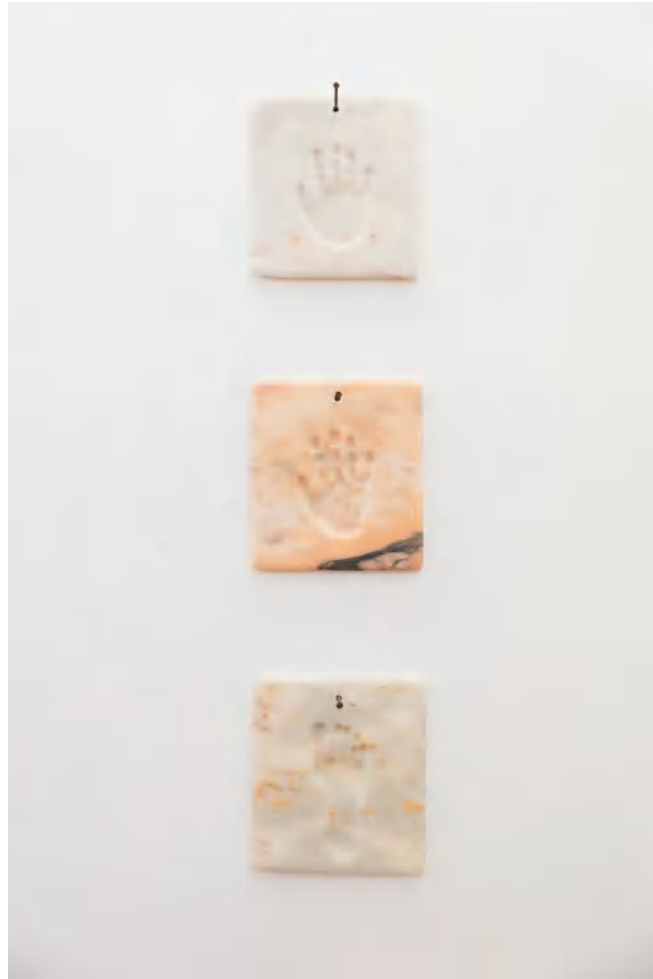
Detail



Werther Gasperini
"Votos", 2024
cire fond de bougies d'église
35 x 55 cm



Werther Gaseprini
"Human", 2022
cire
60 x 50 x 30 cm



Werther Gaseprini
"Quelqu'un", 2022
marbre
3 x (35 x 30 cm)

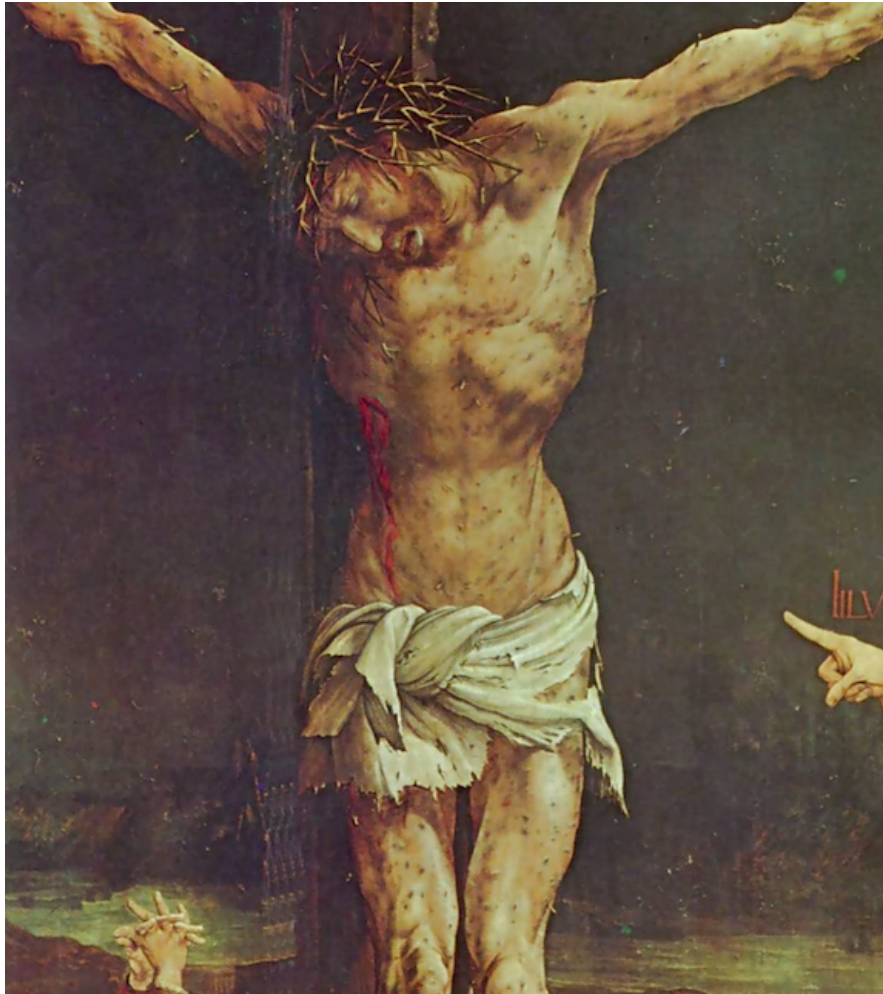
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Exhibition view



Exhibition view



Detail

Werther Gasperini

Werther Gasperini (°1986, Milaan) is een Italiaanse artiest die woont en werkt in Brussel. Werther onderzoekt in zijn oeuvre de relatie tussen de kunstgeschiedenis en de hedendaagse kunst. Als Italiaan maken de renaissancistische kunstenaars deel uit van zijn identiteit. Werther bestudeert de beeldtaal en technieken van de renaissance meesters en vertaalt deze naar hedendaagse kunstvormen. Het gebruik van was komt veelvuldig voor in zijn werk. 's Avonds gaat hij de resten van opgebrande devotiekaarsen recupereren in de kerken. Was is in deze religieuze omgeving sterk symbolisch geladen en gaat zodoende een bijna symbiotische relatie aan met zijn sculpturen. Was is een materiaal dat leeft, kneedbaar is en bekend staat om haar metaforische kracht. Het werk van Werther Gasperini is figuratief en daardoor heel herkenbaar, maar onder die eerste laag schuilt een krachtige, poëtische beeldtaal.

In zijn eerste solotentoonstelling "Oltralpe" verwelkomt Werther Gasperini's zwevende jas in was ("Autoportrait en survolant les Alpes") de toeschouwer en neemt ze mee over de Alpen. "Oltralpe" vertelt het verhaal van een Italiaanse artiest die een pelgrimage onderneemt naar de Noordelijke Nederlanden. De tocht is een periode van zelfreflectie en devotie. Eenmaal in de Noordelijke Nederlanden gearriveerd, raakt hij diep onder de indruk van de kunst van de Vlaamse primitieven. De verbeelding van de emotionele en fysieke pijn van de heilige maagd Maria en Christus door Matthias Grünewald (Würzburg, ca. 1475/80 - Halle, 1528) staat in schril contrast met de statische en beheerste mimiek van de taferelen in het zuiden.

Het verhaal van "Oltralpe" is metaforisch en staat tevens symbool voor het leven en werk van Werther Gasperini. Ook Werther maakte als jonge, Italiaanse artiest — via zijn studies in Parijs en zijn verblijf in Brussel — kennis met de kunstgeschiedenis van de Nederlanden. Zijn respect en fascinatie voor de oude meesters steekt hij niet onder stoelen of banken; hij omarmt beide culturen.

Werther Gasperini

Werther Gasperini (b. 1986, Milan) is an Italian artist living and working in Brussels. In his work, Werther explores the relationship between art history and contemporary art. As an Italian, Renaissance artists are part of his identity. Werther studies the visual language and techniques of the Renaissance masters and translates them into contemporary art forms. Wax is a recurring material in his work. In the evenings, he collects the remnants of burnt devotional candles from churches. In this religious setting, wax is heavily laden with symbolism and thus forms an almost symbiotic relationship with his sculptures. Wax is a living, malleable material known for its metaphorical power. Werther Gasperini's work is figurative and therefore highly recognizable, but beneath that first layer lies a powerful, poetic visual language.

In his first solo exhibition, "Oltralpe," Werther Gasperini's floating wax coat ("Autoportrait en survolant les Alpes") welcomes the viewer and takes them over the Alps. "Oltralpe" tells the story of an Italian artist undertaking a pilgrimage to the Northern Netherlands. The journey is a period of self-reflection and devotion. Upon arriving in the Northern Netherlands, he is deeply impressed by the art of the Flemish Primitives. The depiction of the emotional and physical pain of the Holy Virgin Mary and Christ by Matthias Grünewald (Würzburg, ca. 1475/80 - Halle, 1528) stands in stark contrast to the static and controlled expressions of the scenes in the south.

The story of "Oltralpe" is metaphorical and also symbolizes the life and work of Werther Gasperini. Like the artist in the story, Werther, as a young Italian artist, became acquainted with the art history of the Netherlands through his studies in Paris and his stay in Brussels. He does not hide his respect and fascination for the old masters; he embraces both cultures.