

Portfolio 2023

**Wouter
van de Koot**

Wouter van de Koot

Artist statement

Bio

Wouter van de Koot (1978°), lives and works in Antwerp, Belgium. In 2001 he obtained a BA in Visual Arts at the Utrecht School of Arts, followed in 2018 by a MA in painting at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts Antwerp, after which he went on to win the Award of Buggenhout- Kunstprijs Pieter Vanneste for Drawing and Printmaking 2018. Recent exhibitions include solo and duo shows at Gallery Vriend van Bavink, This Art Fair, and Gasunie (NL).

Statement

In my paintings and drawings I have always been drawn to the theatrical drama found in religious rituals, mythology or history, and its reflections in everyday life. The human body with its vulnerability and beauty, its lust and its strength, have long fascinated me.

I like to work in different materials, going from oils to watercolor to color pencil or inks, moving from one medium to the next and back again. I absolutely love the fragile and flowing nature of watercolor, which demands a balance between control and letting go.

My characters often find themselves in fictional landscapes, strewn with natural or manmade phenomena like clouds, explosions, smoke or light. They seem to partake in mysterious rituals, moving between the mundane and the obscure. My imagery is rooted in personal experiences, fears, dreams and desires which I connect with (art) historical themes and characters. I like to use myself and the people around me as my models, but also take the freedom to cite from existing imagery.

Everyday Theatrics : An ongoing series of watercolors and oil paintings, started in 2009.
Combining performance, daily rituals and painting, exploring the possibilities
of negative space.



Untitled
Watercolor on Arches paper
61 x 46 cm
2023



Morning ritual (Light 18)
Watercolor on Arches paper
61 x 46 cm
2023



The Good Life V
Watercolor on Bockingford Paper
76 x 56 cm
2012

WOUTER vd KOOT



The Quiet IX

Oil on Linen

130 x 105 cm

2010

private collection

For Beste of Bon and Blod

A new, ongoing series of watercolor and ink drawings based on details from medieval and renaissance paintings which intrigue me and raise questions of gender patterns, national identity, religious dogma or beauty ideals. I wish to look at them with today's eyes and investigate meaning and context. The titles are taken from medieval poetry.



Black Madonna
Watercolor and ink on Arches Paper
61 x 46 cm
2023



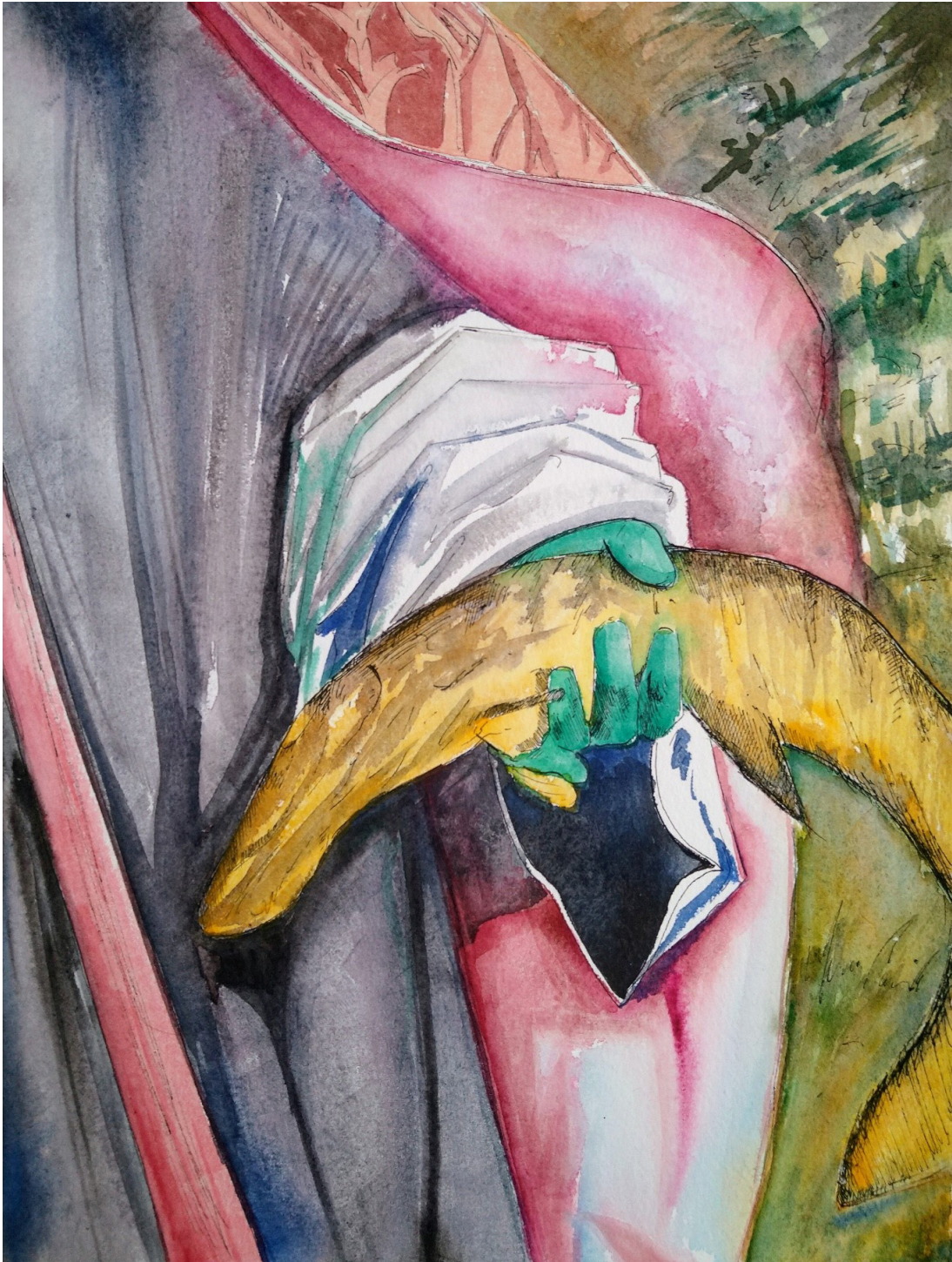
Whan the Turuf is thy Tour
Watercolor and ink on Hahnemühle Paper
32 x 24 cm
2023



So often in my busy mind I sought
Watercolor and ink on Hahnemühle Paper

32 x 24 cm

2023



Dragged out of the river by oxen
Watercolor and ink on Hahnemühle Paper
32 x 24 cm
2023

Paintings

A selection of paintings from the past 10 years.



Skin Care
Oil on Linen
190 x 140 cm
2023



Young David (Otis)

Oil on Linen

190 x 140 cm

2023



Otis
Oil on linen
220 x 150 cm
2019

WOUTER vd KOOT



Offering V
Oil on Linen
135 x 110 cm
2018

private collection

WOUTER vd KOOT



Snowwhite
Oil on Linen
120 x 90 cm
2018

private collection



Untitled
Oil on Linen
140 x 110 cm
2011

Personalia

Name : Wouter van de Koot

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Merksem, België

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Email : wvdkoot@gmail.com

Date of Birth : 06/04/1978

Place of Birth : Zwolle (NL)

Nationality : Dutch

Website : www.woutervandekoot.com

Instagram : woutervandekoot

Education : 2018 - 2020 AP, Royal Academy of Fine Art Antwerp,
Educational Master in Fine Art

2016 - 2018 AP, Royal Academy of Fine Art Antwerp,
MA Painting

2006 - 2008 PCVOA, Getuigschrift Pedagogische
Bekwaamheid, Antwerpen

1997 - 2001 HKU University of Fine Art Utrecht,
BA Fine Art (painting)

Exhibitions

Solo and Duo Exhibitions

- 2019 The Soft Parade | Gasunie | Groningen (NL)
Of Flesh and Stone, duo show with Tja Ling Hu | Gallery Vriend van Bavink | Amsterdam (NL)
- 2017 Offering | This Art Fair, Gallery Vriend van Bavink | Amsterdam (NL)
Where goes the night | Gallery Vriend van Bavink | Amsterdam (NL)
- 2014 Into the Hills then | Closed Gallery | Antwerp (B)
- 2011 The Switch | Ponyhof Gallery | Antwerp (B)
- 2010 White Lies | Oever 21 | Antwerp (B)
- 2008 OBJECT | Atelier 5 | Bonn (D)
- 2007 Trust | Galerie S&S | Antwerp (B)
- 2005 Breath | Odeon theatre | Zwolle (NL)

Select Group Exhibitions

- 2023 New Romantics Pt.2: Strange Fruit | Atelier FAAR | Antwerp (B) |
curated by Wouter van de Koot
- 2022 Larey G's Living Room | Coppejans Gallery & FAAR | Antwerp (B)
Offline Exhibition: The Omicron edition | TiniMini Room | Dordrecht (NL)
- 2021 Onboards Biennale | City of Antwerp | Antwerp (B)
- 2020 Through Walls | Galerie Dessers, YOC | Hasselt (B)
- 2019 Ithaka #27 | Leuven (B)
Velvet Ropes | Showhouse Jay Jay | Antwerp (B)
- 2018 To Be Antwerp | Marc Lauwers A Living Gallery & Kavka | Antwerp (B)
Showcase | Galerie Van Der Planken | Antwerpen (B)
6 voor 6 | Gallery Vriend van Bavink, Loods 6 | Amsterdam (NL)
Wondrous Pearls | Royal Academy of Fine Arts Antwerp | curated by Spank Moons

Exhibitions

Select Group Exhibitions

- 2017 The Drawing Hub silent auction | The Drawing Hub | Berlin (D) |
curated by Jan Philipp Fruehsorge
WATT arts festival, Pink TV | The MAS (Museum aan de Stroom) | Antwerp (B) |
curated by Dawid Wojtalewicz
The Lost Posters exhibition | CC De Steiger | Meenen (B) | curated by Lee Ranaldo &
Jan Van Woensel
- 2016 Underground School of Contemporary Art | Mercado Post Office | Antwerp (B)
curated by Jan van Woensel & Mynd
Belgium Performance Festival III | VUB | Brussels (B) | curated by Stefan Wouters
Setting the Scene | Factor 44 | Antwerp (B) | organised by Wouter van de Koot
- 2015 Summer Salon | Lubomirov/Angus-Hughes Gallery | London (GB)
Let Grass Roots Grow | A-side B-side gallery | London (GB) curated by Ronan Bowes
- 2014 (In)Visible, The Shape Open Exhibition | Shape Gallery | London (GB)
A Comfortable Man | Wilton's Music Hall | London (GB) | curated by MC Llamas
- 2013 Aquachrome | Manifest Gallery | Cincinnati (USA)
- 2012 Beauty of an Ugly Truth | Gallery Vriend van Bavink | Amsterdam (NL)
curated by Gianni Hilgemann (Berlinartprojects)
Truc Troc 8th | Bozar, Palace of Fine Arts | Brussels (B)
- 2011 Pop Secret | Atelier Solarshop | Antwerp (B) | curated by Liv Vaisberg (Ponyhof Gallery)
PAINT! | de Stadsgalerij | Amersfoort (NL) | curated by John Konijn
Truc Troc 7th | Bozar, Palace of Fine Arts | Brussels (B)
- 2010 Riffling Through My Drawers | WEI Art Space | Eindhoven (NL)
- 2009 Die Zeit of Drawing | Climate Gallery | Long Island, New York (US)
HIWAAR Expo 2060 | Site specific installations in Antwerp (B) | curated by Erik van In
- 2008 International Prize Hoppeland for Painting 2008 | Poperinge (B)
- 2007 Royal Dutch Painting Prize 2007 | Gemeentemuseum | The Hague (NL)
- 2004 Young Talent Award | GAU | Utrecht (NL).

Artist Residencies

- 2022 Atelier Faar | Deurne, Antwerp (B)
2016 Underground School of Contemporary Art | Mercado Post Office | Antwerp (B)
2001 The Live Room | Centraal Museum Utrecht (NL)

Awards / Nominations

- 2018 Winner of the Award of Buggenhout- Kunstprijs Pieter Vanneste for Drawing and
Printmaking 2018
2007 Dutch Royal Painting Prize 2007, nominated (NL)
2001 Winner of the Young Talent Award 2001 | PKU, Utrecht (NL)

Publications / Press

- 2019 Catalogue Ithaka #27 | LOKO Cultuur, Leuven
2018 Jan Stassijns | interview over 'To Be Antwerp' in Gazet van Antwerpen, 27/11/2018
Kunstzone magazine | centerfold publicatie van mijn werk | no. 02 March 2018
2017 Edo Dijksterhuis | 'De kunst van het weglaten' | exhibition review in Het Parool,
29/09/2017 ****
2014 Catalogue 'A Comfortable Man' | Cathal Smyth & MC Llamas, London.
2013 Karen Chambers | Aquachrome: Contemporary Watercolor | exhibition review
on AEQAI, 24/11/2013
2012 INDA 6 (International Drawing Annual) | Manifest Gallery & Drawing Center,
Cincinnati | USA.
2011 Ignasi Centelles | The Polymorphic Dreams of Wouter van de Koot | article on
Mutantinvasion, online magazine, 13/10/2011
Liv Vaisberg | Painted images and Photography : When painting relies on digital
Media (III) | article on Ponyhofffreshpaint blog, 06/09/2011
'WEI 2009-2010' | publication by cultural initiative WEI.nu | Eindhoven
Liv Vaisberg, 'Portraying Absence' | article on Ponyhofffreshpaint blog, 10/03/2011
2010 Rob Schonen, 'Pittig met balpen, maf in potlood' | exhibition review in Eindhovens
Dagblad, 09/04/2010
2009 Catalogue 'Die Zeit of Drawing' | Climate Gallery, New York
Catalogue 'Hiwaar Expo 2060' | Antwerpen