

Althuis Hofland Fine Arts

Rafting down river Ganges

David Noro

16 July - 31 Aug 2020

Paintings 2020 (Rafting down river Ganges)

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To the flaming floorboards, and burning white walls
artificial light and hours spent inside
the kitchen where potions are made, gold leaf ceilings and freshly dug graves
concrete foundations and ridiculous tales
We will set sail in the morning
raft raft on, till morning becomes boring

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I set up shop in Ayesha and my apartment in Brussels and started painting without knowing for what and when these works would be manifested. It became a time of isolation, two people in an apartment making works; thinking about the outside.

To challenge myself I went on a diet.

I started munching carrots and devouring fennel for breakfast.

I started painting more and more and our apartment turned into a more colorful place, to my happiness but to the buildings expense. Paintings became friends and strangers drooling about in our living room. We started hanging works from our balcony. Making paintings and spreading them around the neighborhood.

On one fine night I forgot about my diet. I had a few too many beers and too many cigarettes.

I had failed my one mission.

By the morning I was worried. I had no cigarettes left. It was a mundane misery, but there was a sense of adventure in my worries.

I rallied out into the streets to find my usual nightshop closed, turned a right to luckily find another one open in close proximity.

The lady and the man in there were friendly, from india, and I think they could either see my hunger or smell my inner adventures pouring out through the pores of my skin. They handed me a package of tobacco and while they did that I spotted the sentence, the sentence that encouraged this show to come along, 'River rafting on the Ganges'. It was an old tourist attraction poster hanging in the back of the shop. It stuck in my mind. The implications of the poster to me was making a happy trip out of something with very heavy connotations. A holy river and a heavily polluted river. A place where you see burning bodies and trash floating alongside down the stream. A source of cleansing and pollution. A mythical place of dilemma. This is not an illustration, this is a thought.

Life and death, happiness and sadness. It all collides right here.

I asked Roos Hermsen, Henrik Drescher, Marja Bloem, Dee Hehewerth, Peter Thage, Nash Tarttelin, Stig Frederik Priiskorn, Sara Milio and Jeanine Hofland to write texts for a book about the sentence 'Rafting Down River Ganges'. I'm very thankful for this and big thanks to all the artist for contributing and making this possible. We will release this book around the finissage of the exhibition.

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David Noro was the recipient of the Buning Brongers Award (2018) and is currently nominated for the Royal Price for Modern Painting (NL). Current and recent exhibitions include “Stray Bullets & other fabulous stories” (solo) and “Proposals for a collection” (group) at Anna Ruma Gallery, Naples (IT). Previously Noro has shown works at Wunderwall in Antwerp (BE) and Kunst Podium T in Tilburg (NL). David Noro received a BA at the Gerrit Rietveld Aacademie in Amsterdam (NL) and finishes an MA at the Royal Academy in Antwerp (BE).