

Althuis Hofland Fine Arts

Land(e)scapes

Bart Kok

“What struck me about the Dutch landscape is that it’s in a way very restricted. Because of our dense population and lack of mountains we don’t have large vistas, so we are always limited in our experience of nature. We don’t usually feel overwhelmed or small like we would be when experiencing a wide-open view on top of a mountain. The only way to imagine yourself in nature and by yourself here, is in a forest. Due to the density of the trees your field of vision is limited, and because of this you can experience a sense of mysticality. You never know what lies behind the next corner or what is lurking behind a tree. For me this stimulates my imagination and that is something I also find within the paintings I make.”

Althuis Hofland is pleased to present *Land(e)scapes*, a solo exhibition of new work by Dutch artist Bart Kok (b. 1985 Lochem, The Netherlands) marking the artist’s third solo with the gallery.

After moving from Antwerp to his hometown Lochem in the east of the Netherlands, Kok found himself absorbed by his rural surrounding. Landscapes began to shift from mere backdrops in his work to their primary focus. What Kok’s eye caught on his daily strolls is what materializes in his bright and eclectic paintings. These landscapes are emboldened by the artist’s use of colour and brushwork, which playfully references a multitude of artistic movements including Pop-art, Art brut, Pointillism and Expressionism, while remaining close to his first love of graffiti.

His most recent works move towards a more fantastical sphere, as they become progressively detached from reality. In these dreamscapes, abstract and colourful planes and shapes oscillate with figurative elements and small details. Alternating broad brushstrokes with delicate and pencil-like touches, his works are tactile and offer a complex materiality.

There is a pulsating vibrancy that echoes through Kok’s vacant, almost infinite, bocage landscapes. Time seems to stand still, the past and future meeting in a vacuum. These views inspire a feeling of safety, inviting the viewer to get lost in their woods as they provide hills to disappear behind and stretches of green to forget oneself.

Text by Puck Loomans

His works have been the subject of solo exhibitions, including ‘An Acorn Fell On My Head’ at SENS Gallery (Hong Kong, 2023), ‘Never a dull little stroll’ (2022) and ‘You are a painter, do your job and let those who can, talk’ (2019) at Althuis Hofland Fine Arts (Amsterdam), ‘releaseparty, 3 lithographs by Bart Kok’ at Mischkin Editions (Amsterdam, 2019), ‘THE IDEOLOGY OF PIPESMOKING’ at Ornis A. Gallery (Amsterdam, 2017), ‘MET DE TRAAGHEID VAN HET DROGEN (With the slowness of drying)’ at Kavka (Antwerp, 2014) and ‘Word of Mouth’ at De Showroom (Antwerp, 2013). Selected group shows include ‘OEOEartcall online exhibition’ at Tinimini room (Dordrecht, 2022), ‘Grenswerk’ at TAC (Eindhoven, 2020) and MOM Artspace (Hamburg, 2019), ‘Prospects and Concepts’ at Van Nellefabriek (Rotterdam, 2019),

He has won the Royal Award for Painting in 2016.

His work is in the collections of Ahold Kunstcollectie, KPMG and Izala Zwolle, among others.