DEWEER GALLERY ESTATE
&
KETELEER GALLERY
present

# SOLO SHOW
# STEPHAN BALKENHOL

24.09 - 24.10.2021

@ PLATFORM 6a
Otegem, BE

KETELEER GALLERY is very pleased to present a new solo exhibition by Stephan Balkenhol. The exhibition consists of an entirely new series of works, including a new bronze edition which is being introduced for the first time; a co-production with Deweer Gallery Estate and a symbol of the recent collaboration between KETELEER GALLERY and the former Deweer Gallery.

Stephan Balkenhol (°1957. Fritzlar/Hessen, Germany) is an artist whose unmistakably unique style has earned him an inimitable place in the world of contemporary sculpture. Since the beginning of his artistic endeavours, Balkenhol resisted the conceptualism and minimalism of his peers and, instead, became famous for his 'dry' figurative sculptures: roughly cut, hyper-simplified anonymous human and animal figures coated with matte paint. Simultaneously lacking in overt facial expressions while exuding an irrefutably strong aura, 'a Balkenhol' can be distinguished from afar.

The artist makes big and small standing sculptures, often carved from a single block of wawa or poplar wood, but also 2 dimensional relief panels – portraits and landscapes with which he unites painting and sculpture – and bronze statues, meant to be able to stand outside. Many of his monumental bronze sculptures can be found in the urban space across the world.

Already during his education at the University of Fine Arts of Hamburg ('76 – '82), Balkenhol wanted to save figuration from the then prevailing abstract, minimal and conceptual art. But the artist doesn't want to impose a hidden message on to the figurative. He's interested in showing the people as they are, their perceivable form and the stuff they're – literally and figuratively – made of. The direct, seemingly unfinished sculptures come across as quick sketches, fleeting impressions which do justice to the directness with which we generally notice people. The viewer has to fill in the gaps, imbue it with meaning. Fantasy and associations are in the eye of the beholder.

*"In my visions my sculptures become a question, a mirror."*

Now and then absurd elements pop up: humans with animal heads, mating couples on antique vases, monumental figures with stretched-out legs… a sense of humour which counteracts the – at first glance – seriousness of Balkenhol's works, emphasizing instead the artist's overall playfulness. Man is never reduced to banality however, on the contrary, the mundanity of Balkenhol's characters are in honour of the intrinsic value of man.

Grosser Kopf, 2021
populier en verf / poplar and paint
fig. 127 x 93 x 53 cm / tot. 227h cm
SB208-03321-007

Figur schwarz/weiss, 2021
populier en verf / poplar and paint
fig. 128 x 43 x 21 cm / tot. h. 228 cm
SB208-03321-008

Frau mit rotem Rock, 2021
wawa hout en verf / wawa wood and paint
fig. 63h cm / tot. 169,5h cm
SB208-03321-001

Herkules, 2021
wawa hout en verf / wawa wood and paint
fig. 65h cm / tot. 171,5h cm
SB208-03321-002

Hahn & Henne, 2021
populier en verf / poplar and paint
tot. 112h x 70d cm; beide kippen / both chicken 40 cm breed / wide
SB208-03321-006

Adler, 2021
wawa hout en verf / wawa wood and paint
44 x 2,5 cm
SB208-03321-005

Relief Häuser, 2019
wawa hout en verf / wawa wood and paint
200 x 200 x 4 cm
SB2019-001

Relief Mann mit schwarzem Hemd, 2021
wawa hout en verf / wawa wood and paint
60 x 80 x 3 cm
SB2021-001

Kleines Relief Mann (rotes Hemd), 2021
populier en verf / poplar and paint
36 x 36 x 4 cm
SB208-03321-004

Kleines Relief Frau (grünes Hemd), 2021
populier en verf / poplar and paint
36 x 36 x 4 cm
SB208-03321-003

## NEW BRONZE EDITION

Mann mit Kind, 2021
gepatineerd beschilderd brons / patinated painted bronze
64 x 27 x 27 cm; plaat / plate 27 x 27 x 0,8 cm
ed. 30 + VI A.P.
SB207-03221

Ohne Titel, 2021
pencil and ink on paper
DIN A4
SB208-03321-010

Contacteer ons voor het overzicht van alle beschikbare tekeningen. / Contact us for the list with all available drawings.

Open op donderdag, vrijdag en zondag van 14:00 tot 18:00, en volgens afspraak
Open on Thursday, Friday, and Sunday from 14:00 until 18:00, and by appointment