

UNEXISTANT

ALEC DE BUSSCHÈRE EXHIBITION 29.03 — 08.06.2019

ISELP Contemporary Arts hosts the exhibition UNEXISTANT by the Brussels artist Alec De Busschère. The exhibition will run from the 29th of March until the 8th of June 2019.

Alec De Busschère (born 1964) is a visual artist from Brussels. Self-taught, he has been on the art scene since the 80's. Since then he has had many notable exhibitions, in venues such as the Palace of Fine Arts in Charleroi, SMAK in Ghent, and the Rodolphe Janssen gallery in Brussels. He is also the cofounder of "Etablissement d'en Face", founded in 1991, where he was the artistic director from 1991 until 1997.

He returns to the Brussels art scene after a career break with his portrait series UNEXISTANT. De Busschère began work on this project in 2013. It was displayed in part at the Maison Gregoire in 2018.

UNEXISTANT is above all a collection of names generated by the algorithms of the security system reCAPTCHA*, a tool that distinguishes humans from robots using a series of letters to be reproduced. Since 2013, using reCAPTCHA, De Busschère, has been collecting these names, which were once devoid of existence ("UNEXISTANT" itself is a word which does not exist). They then become titles for his works and are developed into fictional characters. For each portrait he paints, the artist creates a biography or even a Facebook profile for the character (for example, *Harvey Sestori* on Facebook).

The exhibition that Alec De Busschère will present at the ISELP has two central elements. Firstly, he gives life to sixteen personalities of the fifty-five names belonging to the UNEXISTANT series: *Henry Icindue, Naguru Uniwest, Rosaline Llitybal...* His choice of medium (resin, chrome, canvas) varies according to the profile created. Then, each portrait enters into a "chat" with the others via the integration of sound and/or virtual elements created in partnership with Laurent de Sutter (texts), Patrice Gaillard (programming) and Yuri Lewitt (sound).

In an age where virtual reality occupies an ever-growing place in our lives, Alec De Busschère creates a link between his pictorial works and digital language. By bringing together the age-old tradition of portrait painting and the intricacies of social media, the artist re-examines the role of identity: when does the virtual world begin to encroach upon our real-life identity? The multimedia and polymorphic components of the UNEXISTANT exhibition allow the visitor to experience the search for identity of each of the fictional personalities who interact within the exposition space.

* A captcha (Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart) is a tool that can be placed at the bottom of an online form as a security measure. It contains a compulsory section which distinguishes between humans and robots when entering your data into a form.

P R E S S P R E V I E W
28 MARCH 4.30PM - 6.30PM

P R E V I E W
28 MARCH 6.30PM - 9PM

C O N F E R E N C E
4 APRIL 6PM

by Joël Benzakin, followed by a discussion with Alec De Busschère

N I G H T T I M E V I E W I N G
26 APRIL 6PM

artist present

PRESS CONTACT

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Curated by Catherine Henkinet

With the collaboration of Laurent de Sutter (writer), Patrice Gaillard (artist, consultant developer) and Yuri Lewitt (sound designer)

USEFUL INFORMATIONS

EXHIBITION FROM TUESDAY TO SATURDAY FROM 11AM TO 6PM, FREE ENTRY

CONFERENCES/SCREENINGS: 6 € / 4€* - Tickets on sale on the spot

* Students under 26, teachers

Free for ISELP Members, unemployed, under-18s, IKT, Article 27



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