

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LIONEL SMIT: Veil

Opening reception: Sunday, 2 July at 1pm

July 2 - October 1, 2023

#LionelSmitVeil

Uitstalling Art Gallery / KUBE Gallery

Marcel Habetslaan 26

3600, Genk

Belgium

Introducing *Veil* by Lionel Smit: A captivating exhibition of oil paintings and bronze sculptures at *Uitstalling's Kube Gallery* in Genk, Belgium, from 2 July to 1 October.



Lionel Smit working on paintings in his studio for his upcoming solo exhibition *Veil*, at Belgian's *KUBE Gallery*.

Cape Town (ZA), 26 May 2023 – *Uitstalling's Kube Gallery* is thrilled to present *Veil*, an exhibition by Lionel Smit. From 2 July to 1 October, art enthusiasts will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in Smit's captivating world of oil paintings and bronze sculptures, where the concept of veiling and the unseen takes centre stage.

Veil showcases Smit's masterful fusion between his use of Classical art techniques and a profound exploration of the hidden aspects of our existence. The collection of oils, painted in a Classical manner, feature draped cloth over female sitters. The fabric functions to subtly conceal and obscure elements that lie beneath the surface. The drapery, an integral part of the exhibition's theme, represents the veiled - the unseen world that exists just beyond the grasp of our physical senses.

The exhibition marks a return to Smit's early artistic roots, influenced by Renaissance and Baroque Masters like Leonardo da Vinci and Rembrandt, respectively. Drawing inspiration from these artists' expert use of chiaroscuro,

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Smit skilfully employs the interplay of light and shadow in his artworks. This technique not only adds depth and dimension to his portraits, but also infuses them with a sense of drama and emotional intensity reminiscent of the Renaissance era.

A muted colour palette permeates this collection of Smit's artworks, further enhancing their evocative power. Dark browns, charcoal, navy blues, beiges, linens, and whites dominate the compositions, lending a sense of timelessness and introspection to each piece. These muted hues serve to deepen the impact, evoking a contemplative atmosphere that resonates with the viewer on a profound level.

In addition to the paintings, *Veil* also features an arresting collection of bronze sculptures, each of which captures the essence of the human form. Infusing the metal with a sense of movement and expression, these bronzes exemplify Smit's mastery in translating his artistic vision across various mediums, offering a harmonious dialogue between painting and sculpture.

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Evermore, 2003, oil on canvas by Lionel Smit

About Lionel Smit

Lionel Smit was born in Pretoria in 1982, and lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa. He is a widely recognised artist celebrated for his captivating portraits and profound explorations of identity. With a career spanning over two decades, Smit has exhibited his works extensively both locally and internationally and has been featured in prestigious collections and institutions around the world.

Smit's painting has been exhibited at the *National Portrait Gallery* in London, receiving the *Visitors' Choice - BP Portrait Award* in 2013. Museum shows include solo exhibitions at *MOCA Miami (Museum of Contemporary Art, Miami)* and at the *Didrichsen Art Museum in Helsinki, Finland*.

www.lionelsmit.com

Uitstalling Art Gallery / KUBE Gallery, Belgium

Uitstalling Art Gallery / KUBE Gallery deals in a distinctive combination of painting, drawing, and sculpture. The locations for *Uitstalling* are chosen carefully in the east of Belgium as well as in Poznan, Poland. They are in perfect spots to experience a combination of contemporary art with an intriguing environment. They also offer guests the possibility to experience an extended private collection, including work from Pablo Picasso, Louise Bourgeois, William Kentridge, Gilbert & George, Julian Opie, and Damien Hirst.

Lionel Smit Studio

The home of Lionel Smit is an awe-inspiring studio located in the historical Paardevlei precinct in Somerset West, 40 km from the City of Cape Town, South Africa. Lionel Smit Studio aspires to serve all people through exploring and experiencing art and creativity, as well as encouraging curiosity and appreciation of the world of visual art.

Press

Veronica Kotzé
veronica@lionelsmit.co.za
+21205 6867
www.lionelsmitstudio.com

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Danny Weckx
danny@uitstalling.com
+32 (0) 475 32 28 26