



PRESS RELEASE

SOLO SHOW DIRK EELEN
WE'VE BEEN IN THESE WOODS
16 MARCH – 26 APRIL 2025



'We've been in these Woods 13' by Dirk Eelen, 2025, oil on canvas, 140x100 cm

Husk Gallery is delighted to present the fourth solo show with Belgian painter Dirk Eelen in its gallery space. The exhibition features his recent landscape painting series 'We've been in these Woods'. Dirk Eelen's most recent series of oil paintings features a variety of landscape scenes that evoke both collective and personal memories. The paintings engender a sense of familiarity in viewers, who often recognise landscapes that they believe they have previously visited. This effect can be compared to the sensation of *déjà vu*, as if the viewer is encountering a long-held memory that has resurfaced from the subconscious.

Painting and especially oil painting technique is at the core of Dirk Eelen's artistic practice.

His highly accomplished use of paint, marked by dynamic brushstrokes and a pointillism technique on a brown-tinted background, brings contemporary subjects to life on his canvas. In his latest series, he paints his observations of the forest based on photographs he took over the past months of the woodland nearby his home. Eelen invites the viewer to engage with his subject in a variety of ways, almost as if they are walking through the forest itself.

The artist's depictions of the forest landscape foster a sense of familiarity. The viewer is immersed within a narrative of natural scenery, evoking a sense of 'wanderlust'. His work captures the viewer in the present moment, while also inviting a contemplation of the transience of space and time. The medium of painting serves as a means to articulate the inexpressible, offering a visual language that transcends mere description.

Eelen's paintings engage in a dialogue with landscape painters of the past. The landscape subject evokes the spirit of New Romanticism, though the artist's painting style is more closely aligned with a contemporary version of Impressionism. Eelen's distinctive technique consistently surprises viewers. While his work might be considered impressionistic when viewed up close, it evokes a photorealistic quality when observed from a distance. This creates an optical illusion that tricks the viewers, making them perceive his paintings as highly naturalistic.



'We've been in these Woods 14' by Dirk Eelen, 2025, oil on canvas, 100 x 100 cm

Dirk Eelen is a genuine artist. He has produced a large body of work that is investigating specific themes, using 8mm films and photographic material as the basis for his paintings. A keen observer of human behaviour in our Western society, he chooses figurative subjects, which he explores in separate, narrative series. The artist creates series with portraits of human figures, natural landscapes and scenes of contemporary history. Given the virtuosity of his painting technique, it is clear that Eelen has an interest in the long tradition of painting. His style draws on old masters using dark backgrounds. Dirk Eelen succeeds in establishing a contemporary approach to painting, by depicting his own perception on personal and collective memories with a particular intimacy.

Short CV



Dirk Eelen (°1974, Louvain) is a Belgian artist who lives and works in Nethen. After graduating in Archaeology at KU Leuven University, he obtained a master's degree of Visual Art at Sint-Lukas Brussels. Since 2004 he is a full-time painter. In 2019 Dirk Eelen has been awarded with the first prize of the fifth Open M contest, organized by Museum M in Louvain. Solo exhibitions include *Surveillance* (2023), *Into the Gathering* (2023) and *Fair Encounters* (2019) in Husk Gallery, Brussels, *Shallow Waters* (2019) and *Nuit debout* (2018) in Gallery 15/17, Antwerp, Belgium; *Il faut cultiver notre jardin* in Chateau de Voltaire, Ferney-Voltaire, Switzerland (2016) and *Syria - as seen on YouTube in the Egg*, Brussels, Belgium (2013). He has also taken part in several group exhibitions in Belgium and abroad.

Opening

Sunday 16 March 2025 from 2 to 7 pm in the presence of the artist

Rivoli Open Sunday

6 April 2025 from 2 to 6 pm

Opening hours during exhibition

Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 2 to 6 pm
or by appointment

For further inquiries:

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