

dépendance

4 rue du marché aux porcs
1000 brussels
tel. .32 .2 217 74 00
fax .32 .2 217 74 01
www. dependance.be
info@dependance.be

FELIX Leen Voet

Between 2009 and 2010 I realized 774 drawings based on the oeuvre of the painter Felix De Boeck (1898-1995). The complete series, originally drawn with pencil on A4 paper, is reproduced in the book called Felix.

What happened out there in Drogenbos, the spot where Felix De Boeck's museum is built, in a corner of De Boeck's own yard? How did this artist – who lived according to a long-outdated formula of artistic calling – build his own myth? Felix De Boeck, whose oeuvre initially functioned within a certain intellectual discourse, but who withdrew from the art scene to live a rural life, became (defeated by life but assisted by God) stranded in pathos and dilettantism.

My request to the FelixXart Museum for the full list of works that were originally donated by the artist to the township of Drogenbos and subsequently transferred to custodianship of the Flemish Community, led to the an image bank containing 774 pieces. In the works of this pioneer of modernism, who later evolved towards a tormented symbolism, the same motifs are being repeated over and over. Felix De Boeck made multiple copies of his own paintings. Felix De Boeck constructed his compositions in full accordance with the geometric laws of the circle.

The time consuming operation of copying this body of works, with pencil on a standard A4 drawing paper, does not aim to reassess his oeuvre. Physical properties such as size are denied in the drawings; the formats of the pictures are levelled to become uniform; paint is translated into pencil lines; stripes obsessively fill the paper. Each image I found on the image bank is only drawn once. He lived in another time, another world. His spiritual and magical world bears not a single resemblance to my life and my predilections. Is it possible to revive his artistic gesture post mortem? Can I poke him back to live?