

Dirk Braeckman

Luster./

54 White Street, New York
Jan 20 – Feb 26, 2022

GRIMM is pleased to announce its first exhibition with Belgium-based artist Dirk Braeckman titled *Luster./* at its New York gallery opening on January 20, 2022. This is the artist's first solo show in New York in over a decade, which brings together photographs and video work from 2012 to 2021. A small publication will be published on the occasion of the exhibition.

The photographs by Braeckman are enigmatic in their evasion of clear, linear narratives; an approach that can be seen as contradictory to the traditional deliberations of the medium. Explorations of time, however, remain in focus through a disrupted, abstracted means. Braeckman's compositions are pulled from a seemingly endless archive of negatives that the artist has built over decades. Oftentimes a negative does not see the light of day for years until the artist is ready to employ its image. Images are then merged, manipulated, to create new inexplicable worlds, pushing the boundaries of photography by the sheer refusal of offering practical or evidential representations.

Featuring distant seascapes, architectural details and blurred nudes, Braeckman's photographs are more akin to a painterly worldbuilding rather than documentation. The artist, much like the rest of the us, has retreated the past two years to a more localized life. An impulse for travel has shaped much of Braeckman's life and practice, but recently the artist has returned to the studio and his darkroom, experimenting with new techniques and utilizing everything within his reach to create new confounding compositions.

Also included in the exhibition is the video work *Hemony* (2012), which features a swinging monumental church bell filmed from below. Tension builds as the swinging speeds up. The viewer waits for the bell clapper to hit, to hear the familiar strike of a bell's tone, though the film remains silent. The absence of anticipated sound echoes themes of desire, offering a beautiful harmony to the darkness and voids of the photographs.



Dirk Braeckman | *R.N.-W.S.-27* | 2021 | detail

not for publication

For more information, interview and royalty free image requests, please contact the gallery in New York: press@grimmgallery.com +1 (212) 280-3877

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Dirk Braeckman | *S.B.-C.P.-18* | 2018

About the Artist

Dirk Braeckman studied photography and film at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Ghent (BE) from 1977 to 1981. In 2017, Braeckman represented Belgium at the 57th Venice Biennale (IT). Braeckman has taken part in numerous exhibitions including the 34th São Paulo Art Biennial (BR), The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Fort Worth, TX (US); BOZAR, Brussels (BE); S.M.A.K., Ghent (BE); Fotohof, Salzburg (AT); Museum De Pont, Tilburg (NL); Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin (DE); Museu de Arte Moderna, Rio de Janeiro (BR); Whitechapel Gallery, London (UK); WIELS, Brussels (BE) and Museum M, Leuven (BE).

Braeckman's work is included in many institutional and important private collections, such as Artothèque, Annecy (FR); Belgacom Art, Brussels (BE); Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris (FR); Centraal Museum, Utrecht (NL); Centre National des Arts Plastiques, Paris (FR); Centro de Fotografía de la Universidad, Salamanca (ES); Fondation nationale d'art

contemporain, Paris (FR); Frac Nord-Pas de Calais, Dunkirk (FR); Frac Rhône-Alpes, Villeurbanne (FR); Kunstmuseum, The Hague (NL); M HKA, Antwerp (BE); MAC's Grand-Hornu, Hornu (BE); Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris (FR); Ministère de la Communauté française, Brussels (BE); Ministerie van de Vlaamse Gemeenschap, Brussels (BE); Musée Niépce, Chalon-sur-Saône (FR); Musée de la Photographie, Charleroi (BE); Musée d'Art Contemporain et Moderne, Strasbourg (FR); Mu.ZEE, Ostend (BE); De Pont, Museum voor hedendaagse kunst, Tilburg (NL); Provinciaal Museum voor Fotografie, Antwerp (BE); Royal Palace, Brussels (BE); Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Brussels (BE); Sammlung Goetz, Munich (DE); Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst S.M.A.K., Ghent (BE).

Last year Braeckman was awarded a Doctor Honoris Causa by the University of Brussels because of his general social merits as a photographer.

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