

**Press release**

Wijlre, 15 April 2025

**Human, Animal, and Nature: Exhibitions by Lin May Saeed and Gladys Zeevaarders at Kasteel Wijlre estate**

11 May – 24 August 2025

Opening: Sunday, 11 May 2025, 15:00

Locations: Hedge House, Coach House and Gardens

Curator: Xander Karskens

Kasteel Wijlre Estate opens the 2025 season with two solo exhibitions. From 11 May to 24 August 2025, the Hedge House and its gardens will host the first retrospective exhibition in the Netherlands of German artist Lin May Saeed: *The Herd at the Watering Hole*. Saeed is internationally renowned for her work exploring the relationship between humans and animals. Simultaneously, the estate will present in the Coach House *Il y avait un Jardin*, a solo exhibition by Dutch artist Gladys Zeevaarders. This presentation focuses on new work in which Zeevaarders investigates the natural processes taking place in the estate's gardens and surrounding fields.

**Retrospective Exhibition Lin May Saeed: *The Herd at the Watering Hole***

Lin May Saeed (DE, 1973-2023) was a German artist whose work was deeply entangled with the subject of animal rights. In her imaginative work, the agency of the non-human living world takes center stage. Primarily active as a sculptor, Saeed favored Styrofoam as her medium of choice, creating a fantastical universe in a unique visual language, populated by sovereign animal figures that seem to have wandered out of myths and fables.

The exhibition in and around the Hedge House presents a cross-section of her work, with a focus on the core of her practice: sculptures and reliefs that express solidarity between humans and animals. Saeed's work offers a world of hope and optimism, where animals are equal to humans, possessing their own personalities and agency. Her practice is both critical and humorous, aiming to shed new light – without moralising – on the complex questions surrounding our relationship with animal life.

The exhibition in Wijlre marks the first solo presentation of the artist's work in the Netherlands since her passing in 2023. Around 20 works are brought together to provide a cohesive overview of Saeed's oeuvre. With this retrospective exhibition of Lin May Saeed, Kasteel Wijlre estate reaffirms its commitment to showcasing internationally significant artists whose work critically and imaginatively explores the relationship between humanity and nature. Saeed previously participated in the group exhibition *Spark Birds & the Loneliness of Species*, which took place at the estate in 2023. The exhibition is made possible with the cooperation of the Estate of Lin May Saeed in Frankfurt.

On Sunday 18 May 2025, Kasteel Wijlre estate will host an Expert Session under the title *Animal Horizons*, a special public programme organised in collaboration with Goethe-Institut (Amsterdam) and Jan van Eyck Academie (Maastricht). International speakers will explore artistic and ethical themes such as interspecies solidarity, animal rights, and alternative human-animal relations. More information and tickets will be announced via our newsletter and website.

**Solo Exhibition Gladys Zeevaarders**

In the Coach House, new work by South Limburg-based artist Gladys Zeevaarders (Kerkrade, 1993) is on view in her solo exhibition *Il y avait un Jardin*. In recent years, Zeevaarder has

garnered attention for her work, which evolved from a precise, sensitive drawing practice (often developed through collective processes) into a contemplative exploration of the visual structures of the natural world, taking shape across various media. The core of her working process for *// y avait un Jardin* was formed by patient fieldwork. For the span of a year, the artist regularly spent time in and around the estate, guided by what the natural world placed at her feet and revealed to her in spontaneous moments.

Patience and attentiveness are essential elements in Zeevaarders' process. On a deeper level, her work emerges from the distinction between 'looking' and 'seeing' – a deliberate, receptive mode of perception rooted in a profound connection to one's surroundings. In *// y avait un Jardin*, this sensitivity has resulted in an unexpected visual richness, captured in the minute details of plants, flowers and fungi. The exhibition at the Coach House brings together several new series: riso prints, textile works, and an archive centred around colour extractions from nature.

### Our Programme in 2025

These exhibitions highlight the ambition of Kasteel Wijlre estate to produce, present and discuss entanglements of contemporary art with the natural environment. Additionally, in 2025, an indigenous flower-picking garden will be further developed by artist Elspeth Diederix. In the second half of the year, the international group exhibition *We Live Here Too* (Hedge House) and *Hidden Messages* by Marta & Slava (Coach House) will explore the relationship between humans and nature, and the interaction between people and the landscape.

### Kasteel Wijlre Estate: A Meeting Place for Contemporary Art and Nature

Kasteel Wijlre estate uniquely combines contemporary art and architecture with cultural heritage and nature. The expansive gardens and park surrounding the historic castle and Coach House are beautifully situated in the scenic Limburg hills. The Hedge House, designed by architect Wiel Arets, embodies the estate's fusion of art and nature – an exhibition space that also houses a chicken coop and orchid greenhouse.

Originally founded as a private initiative by collectors Jo and Marlies Eyck, the estate became an independent public institution in 2015. Today, Kasteel Wijlre estate presents a year-round programme of international exhibitions, public events, and educational activities at the intersection of art and nature.

-----

### Note to editors

For more information, high-resolution images, interviews, or other press-related inquiries, please contact Annelieke van Halen via [communicatie@kasteelwjlre.nl](mailto:communicatie@kasteelwjlre.nl).

provincie limburg  
gesubsidieerd door de Provincie Limburg



het  
Cultuurfonds



Kasteel Wijlreweg 1  
6321 PP Wijlre

+31 43 450 2616  
[info@kasteelwjlre.nl](mailto:info@kasteelwjlre.nl)  
[kasteelwjlre.nl](http://kasteelwjlre.nl)