

# Dürst Britt & Mayhew

**Exhibition title:** The clouds are charging colour

**Artists:** Willem Hussem), Paul Beumer, David Roth, Alejandra Venegas, Wieske Wester & Piet Ouborg

**Venue:** Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague, The Netherlands

**Date:** 23 November 2025 – 14 February 2026

**Photography:** Gert Jan van Rooij / copyright the artist & Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague

## List of Captions

1. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
2. Piet Ouborg, In Omlijsting, 1948, oil on canvas, 50 × 40 cm, private collection, NL
3. Willem Hussem, Composition, ca. 1947, Indian ink on paper, 32 × 25 cm (paper) / 48 × 38 cm (frame)
4. Piet Ouborg, Composition, 1949, gouache and sand on paper, 27 × 40 cm (paper) / 42 × 54,5 cm (frame)
5. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
6. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
7. Piet Ouborg, Engel, de aarde beroerend, 1946-1947, oil on cardboard, 43 × 53 cm (cardboard) / 59 × 69 cm (frame)
8. Willem Hussem, Composition, 1954, oil on paper, 25 × 32,5 cm (paper) / 36,5 × 49,5 cm (frame)
9. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
10. Piet Ouborg, Tekens, 1947, oil on canvas, 64 × 50 cm (canvas) / 68 × 54,5 cm (frame)
11. Willem Hussem, Composition, 1956, oil on linen, 55,5 × 69,5 cm
12. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
13. Piet Ouborg, Landschappelijk, 1947, oil on canvas, 50 × 64 cm (canvas) / 75,5 × 90 cm (frame)
14. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
15. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
16. Piet Ouborg, Roepende figuren, 1948, gouache on paper, 48 × 63 cm (paper) / 73,5 × 88,5 cm (frame)
17. Willem Hussem, Composition, 1956/1963, oil on linen, 74 × 92 cm
18. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
19. Willem Hussem, Composition, ca. 1955, oil on paper, 58 × 38 cm (paper) / 63 × 43 cm (frame)
20. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague

# Dürst Britt & Mayhew

21. Willem Hussem, Composition, 1949, Indian ink on newspaper, 29 × 20 cm (paper) / 52 × 42 cm (frame)
22. Piet Ouborg, Hoofd en teken, 1948, crayon and gouache on newspaper, 19 × 27 cm (paper) / 42 × 49 cm (frame)
23. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
24. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
25. Piet Ouborg, Roepende figuur, 1948, gouache on paper, 64 × 50 cm (paper) / 84 × 68,5 (frame)
26. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
27. Willem Hussem, Composition, 1947, ink and gouache on paper, 36×28,5 cm (paper) / 52×42 cm(frame)
28. Willem Hussem, Composition, 1947, ink and gouache on paper, 37×27,5 cm (paper) / 52×42 cm(frame)
29. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
30. Piet Ouborg, Untitled, ca. 1946-1950, pastel on paper, 45 × 60 cm (paper) / 65 × 80,5 cm (frame)
31. Willem Hussem, Composition, ca. 1947, gouache on paper, 22,5 × 15,8 cm (paper) / 42 × 32 cm (frame)
32. Willem Hussem, Composition, ca. 1947, gouache on paper, 23,2 × 15,8 cm (paper) / 42 × 32 cm (frame)
33. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
34. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
35. David Roth, Untitled (Flower painting/Pré de L'Orme), 2024, pigment and acrylic binder on canvas, 20 × 30 cm
36. Willem Hussem, Composition, ca. 1935, oil on board, 21 × 16 cm
37. David Roth, Untitled (Sun Painting), 2018, cotton fabric bleached by sun light, 141,5 × 241,5 cm
38. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
39. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
40. Willem Hussem, Still life with vase and bottles, ca. 1935, oil on canvas, 38 × 55 cm (canvas) / 43,5 × 60 cm (frame)
41. Wieske Wester, Jeans #5, 2019, pencil on paper, 25 × 25 cm (paper) / 42,5 × 42,5 cm (frame)
42. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
43. Wieske Wester, Vase, 2024, oil on canvas, 50 × 40 cm

# Dürst Britt & Mayhew

44. Willem Hussem, Fish, ca. 1935, oil on paper, 23 × 34 cm (paper) / 38 × 48 cm (frame)
45. Wieske Wester, Fish, 2019 watercolour and ink on paper, 20,5 × 29 cm (paper) / 38 × 48 cm (frame)
46. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
47. a selection of archival material from Willem Hussem's estate, compiled by Yannick Balk (detail)
48. a selection of archival material from Willem Hussem's estate, compiled by Yannick Balk (detail)
49. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
50. Willem Hussem, Composition, 1954, oil on paper, 31 × 17 cm (paper) / 29,5 × 43 cm (frame)
51. David Roth, Untitled (Flower Painting), 2024, ink on hand-made paper, 76 × 56 cm (paper) / 87 × 67,5cm (frame)
52. Willem Hussem, Composition, ca. 1953, oil on canvas, 65 × 54 cm
53. Alejandra Venegas, Untitled (purple line), 2019, watercolour on paper, 28 × 21,5 cm (paper) / 45 × 37 cm (frame)
54. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
55. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
56. Willem Hussem, Composition, 1970, oil on linen, 130 × 200 cm
57. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
58. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
59. Alejandra Venegas, Julio, 2021, monotype (oil on paper), 62,5 × 47 cm (paper) / 68 × 52,5 cm (frame)
60. Willem Hussem, Composition (WH6-6), 1967 oil on canvas, 70 × 100 cm
61. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
62. Alejandra Venegas, Nube espesa, 2023, carved cedar wood, gouache & wax, 39,5 × 46,5 × 5 cm, (double-sided)
63. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
64. Willem Hussem, Composition, 1968, aluminium, 12 × 50 × 50 cm
65. Willem Hussem, Composition, 1968, aluminium, 12 × 50 × 50 cm
66. Willem Hussem, Composition, 1968, aluminium, 12 × 50 × 50 cm
67. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague

# Dürst Britt & Mayhew

68. Alejandra Venegas, Blanca doble, 2024, carved cedar wood, gouache and wax, 78,7 × 36,5 cm
69. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
70. Willem Hussem, Composition, 1965, oil on jute , 80 × 100 cm
71. David Roth, Untitled (Flower Painting), 2024, ink on hand-made paper, 76 × 56cm (paper) / 87 × 67,5cm (frame)
72. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
73. WillemHussem, Composition, 1969, wenge wood, 94,5 × 23 × 16 cm
74. WillemHussem, Composition, 1969, wenge wood, 94,5 × 23 × 16 cm
75. WillemHussem, Composition, 1969, wenge wood, 94,5 × 23 × 16 cm
76. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
77. Willem Hussem, Composition, 1961, oil on canvas, 80 × 100 cm
78. Paul Beumer, The Diamond Sutra, 2023, Tie-dyed textiles on cotton, 170 × 173 cm
79. Willem Hussem, Composition, ca. 1962-1963, oil on canvas, 150 × 100 cm
80. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
81. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
82. Alejandra Venegas, Tormenta sobre el mar, 2022, carved cedar wood, gouache and wax, 50 × 43 cm
83. Willem Hussem, Still life with jug and skull, ca. 1940-1944, oil on canvas, 93 × 73 cm
84. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
85. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
86. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
87. Willem Hussem, Bladeren, 1924, woodcut on paper, 25,5 × 20,6 cm (image) / 52 × 42 cm (frame), edition of 25
88. Alejandra Venegas, Dónde devoran, 2024, carved cedar wood, gouache and wax, 55,5 × 33 cm
89. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
90. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
91. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
92. Willem Hussem, Composition, ca. 1972, oil on canvas, 150 × 120 cm

# Dürst Britt & Mayhew

93. Paul Beumer, Nocturnal council, 2023, handwoven cotton, 116 × 96 cm (textile) / 124 × 104 cm (frame)
94. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
95. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
96. Willem Hussem, Composition, 1969, beech wood, 102 × 20,5 × 14 cm (base: 33 × 26,5)
97. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
98. The clouds are charging colour, 2025/26, exhibition view, Dürst Britt & Mayhew, The Hague
99. Willem Hussem, Litho III (serie 2C), 1966, colour lithograph, 88 × 61 cm (paper) / 96,5 × 68 cm (frame), edition of 190
100. Paul Beumer, Flight in formation, 2022, kimono linings on canvas, 130 × 80 cm

'The clouds are charging colour' is a group exhibition focusing on the interaction between Willem Hussem's (1900-1974) work and thoughts and those of other artists. When artists are in close contact and visit each other's studio there can be a direct personal dialogue. But what happens when Hussem's work is paired with artists from a different generation or geographical location?

The exhibition starts in the Frontspace with works by Hussem and his friend and colleague Piet Ouborg (1893-1956), with whom he shared an interest for Eastern calligraphy and philosophy and a fascination for non-Western art. Hussem and Ouborg met each other after they both settled in The Hague at the end of the 1930s after having spent long periods abroad; Hussem having lived in France (between 1919 and 1936) and Ouborg in Indonesia (between 1916 and 1938).

Indonesia had a profound influence on Ouborg's work and thoughts, specifically with regard to his investigation of the unconscious and to what lies behind the surface of external appearances. The animated world he inhabited and experienced there never lost its attraction and is at the root of his artistic practice; "Unconscious expressions could be called the basis for my work." Choosing between figuration or abstraction was therefore never an issue.

Hussem and Ouborg got along well, visited each other's studio and had a mutual influence on each other's practice. Both never concerned themselves with artistic movements or styles, although their work does align with prevailing trends during certain periods. Over time, Ouborg shifted from a figurative visual language, through magical realism, surrealism, and abstract images, to a lyrical, expressive style in the 1940s and 1950s. A quote from the French abstract artist Roger Bissière (1886-1964) illustrates well what both Hussem and Ouborg aimed to achieve: "I did not want to make paintings in the pompous sense of the word, but only colourful pictorial signs."

The disinterest in restricting oneself or adhering to a single style, is something that is quite familiar to artists of the current generation. Experimentation or the blurring of boundaries is much more common nowadays. In the main space of the gallery works by Hussem from different periods in his career are combined with the work of four of our represented artists. Paul Beumer (1982), David Roth (1985), Alejandra Venegas (1986) and Wieske Wester (1985) cannot say to have been directly influenced by Hussem, but - each in their own way - do seem to share his mindset.

Dutch artist Paul Beumer spends long periods of time in South East Asia and works with textiles from non-Western origin, for Austrian artist David Roth working outside in nature is an important part of his painterly practice, Mexican artist Alejandra Venegas works with various kinds of wood indigenous to her country, Dutch artist Wieske Wester's works straddle the line between figuration and abstraction. Their practices are not concerned with making sweeping statements, but with finding inspiration in the world they inhabit, an ongoing quest for simplicity and poetry. Juxtaposing their works next to Hussem makes for unexpected similarities and contrasts and proves Hussem's ongoing legacy. Hussem met kindred spirits during his lifetime, but in spirit he still does so today.

A table with archival material from Willem Hussem's estate has been compiled by Yannick Balk, who is also the author of the essay accompanying the exhibition which you can read [here](#).