

view

view

10 rue du marché aux porcs
1000 brussels
t +32 2 217 74 00
www. dependanceview.be
view@dependance.be

IRIS VAN DONGEN
SPELLBOUND
30 April - 23 May, 2026

PRESS RELEASE

dépendance VIEW is pleased to present *Spellbound*, a solo exhibition by Iris van Dongen.

Iris van Dongen's work moves between historical painting traditions and contemporary subcultures. Her portraits of women show distant, absent gazes reminiscent of 19th-century Pre-Raphaelite painting, but are reframed through references to fashion photography, death metal aesthetics, and contemporary styling. Clothing and ornament function as a visual language through which gender roles and identity are tested and unsettled through choices of fabric, pose, and styling rather than abstract symbolism, often producing an uneasy stillness rather than open-ended disquiet. *Spellbound* theatrically incorporates a skull that echoes one of James Ensor's recurring motifs, where masks and vanitas symbolism blur the boundaries between satire, mortality, and disguise.

Her works use layered applications of pastel, oil, and charcoal to construct figures through visible revisions, smudges, and overlays, where bright pigments emerge sharply against dark, matte backgrounds. The compositions consistently arise from a tension between dense black abstraction and defined figuration, creating a dialogue between presence and obscurity.

The portraits are staged as still scenes with deliberate posing, where hands, hair, and fabric are carefully arranged and folded so that small details like stitching, strands, and cloth become the main carriers of meaning. Each figure can be read as a tarot card, a self-contained image charged with symbolic tension that resists resolution. This creates a suspended state in which the subject appears both revealed and withheld, producing a psychological atmosphere where the figure seems momentarily spellbound.

Her rural Danish settings are grounded in close observation: gardens, overgrown forests, and shifting weather conditions directly inform the works. Nature is not treated symbolically but as an active set of conditions that shapes composition and spatial logic. In *One Misty Moisty Morning*, the figure's dress spirals outward, dissolving into the surrounding landscape, while the presence of a cat introduces a reflective counterpart that implicates the viewer through its gaze.

Iris van Dongen (1975, NL) lives and works in Denmark. She has had solo exhibitions at Museum van Loon, Amsterdam; Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin; and Stigter van Doesburg, Amsterdam. Her work has been included in group exhibitions at Sadie Coles HQ, London; Kunstmuseum, The Hague; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt; Frac Franche-Comté, Besançon; Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam; the Tirana Biennial and the Athens Biennale. In 2014, she created an official portrait of King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands.



view

10 rue du marché aux porcs
1000 brussels
t +32 2 217 74 00
www. dependanceview.be
view@dependance.be

Iris van Dongen
Je Transformais
2012
Soft pastel, pressed charcoal, and acrylic on paper (unframed)
150 x 84 cm
59 x 33 1/8 in
(DEP-IVD-0003)

View HR Image







view

10 rue du marché aux porcs
1000 brussels
t +32 2 217 74 00
www. dependanceview.be
view@dependance.be

Iris van Dongen
Teunisbloem
2023
Soft pastel, pressed charcoal, and acrylic on paper, mounted on wood
102 x 76 cm
40 1/8 x 29 7/8 in
(DEP-IVD-0005)

View HR Image



view

10 rue du marché aux porcs
1000 brussels
t +32 2 217 74 00
www. dependanceview.be
view@dependance.be



Iris van Dongen
In the Garden
2026
Soft pastel, pressed charcoal, and acrylic on paper (unframed)
60.5 x 47.5 cm
23 7/8 x 18 3/4 in
(DEP-IVD-0008)
price: 5.500,00 EUR (excl. VAT)

View HR Image







view

10 rue du marché aux porcs
1000 brussels
t +32 2 217 74 00
www. dependanceview.be
view@dependance.be



Iris van Dongen
One misty moisty morning
2026
Soft pastel, pressed charcoal, and acrylic on paper (unframed)
104 x 74 cm
41 x 29 1/8 in
(DEP-IVD-0006)

View HR Image





view

10 rue du marché aux porcs
1000 brussels
t +32 2 217 74 00
www. dependanceview.be
view@dependance.be



Iris van Dongen
Spellbound
2026
Soft pastel, pressed charcoal, and acrylic on paper
(unframed)
61 x 48 cm
24 x 18 7/8 in
(DEP-IVD-0009)

View HR Image



view

10 rue du marché aux porcs
1000 brussels
t +32 2 217 74 00
www. dependanceview.be
view@dependance.be



Iris van Dongen
August
2025
Soft pastel, pressed charcoal, and acrylic on paper (unframed)
81 x 60 cm
31 7/8 x 23 5/8 in
(DEP-IVD-0011)

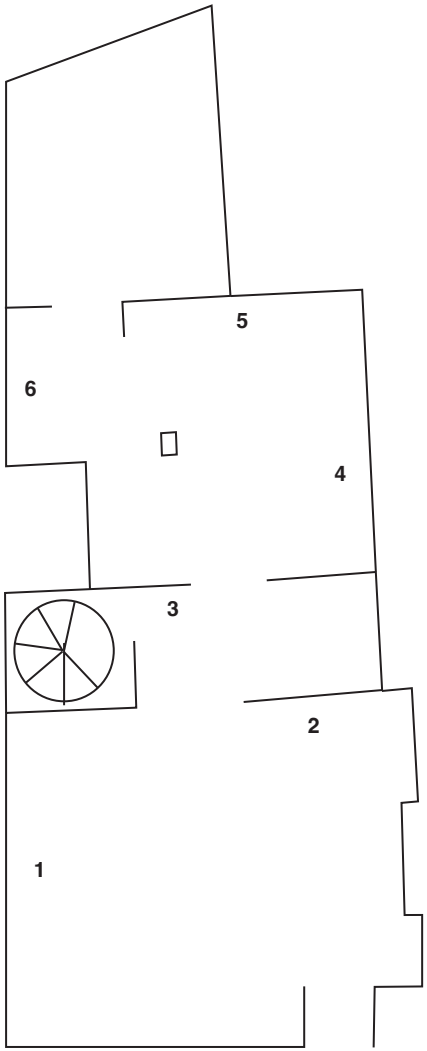
View HR Image

view

10 rue du marché aux porcs
1000 brussels
t +32 2 217 74 00
www. dependanceview.be
view@dependance.be

IRIS VAN DONGEN
SPELLBOUND
30 April - 23 May, 2026

LIST OF WORKS AND FLOORPLAN



1



Iris van Dongen
Je Transformais, 2012
Soft pastel, pressed charcoal, and acrylic on paper (unframed)
150 x 84 cm / 59 x 33 1/8 in
(DEP-IVD-0003)

2



Iris van Dongen
Teunisbloem, 2023
Soft pastel, pressed charcoal, and acrylic on paper, mounted on wood
102 x 76 cm / 40 1/8 x 29 7/8 in
(DEP-IVD-0005)

3



Iris van Dongen
In the Garden, 2026
Soft pastel, pressed charcoal, and acrylic on paper (unframed)
60.5 x 47.5 cm / 23 7/8 x 18 3/4 in
(DEP-IVD-0008)

4



Iris van Dongen
Spellbound, 2026
Soft pastel, pressed charcoal, and acrylic on paper (unframed)
61 x 48 cm / 24 x 18 7/8 in
(DEP-IVD-0009)

5



Iris van Dongen
One misty moisty morning, 2026
Soft pastel, pressed charcoal, and acrylic on paper (unframed)
104 x 74 cm / 41 x 29 1/8 in
(DEP-IVD-0006)

6



Iris van Dongen
August, 2025
Soft pastel, pressed charcoal, and acrylic on paper (unframed)
81 x 60 cm / 31 7/8 x 23 5/8 in
(DEP-IVD-0011)

view

10 rue du marché aux porcs
1000 brussels, belgium

Wed–Fri, 2 – 6 pm
Sat, 12 – 6 pm

tel. .32 .2 217 74 00
view.dependance.be
view@dependance.be

Current Exhibitons

ALEXANDRA METCALF
E=MCSCARED
22.04 – 27.06.2026

VIEW: IRIS VAN DONGEN
SPELLBOUND
30.04 – 23.05.2026

Upcoming Exhibitions

VIEW: RESCHWILLEIT
29.05 –27.06.2026

All works are subject to concurrent offers / prior sale and VAT /
import duties where applicable.

dépendance complies to the EU Money Laundering Regulations, effective January 2020.
This legislation requires the gallery to verify client identity when acquiring a work valued at and or exceeding €10,000. For sales via third parties, it is mandatory by law to identify the beneficial owner of the art work.