

NICODIM

Michiel Ceulers

Scissor Valley People (Birds of a Feather Flock Together)

ft Kaspar Bosmans, Wim De Pauw, Birde Vanheerswyngiels, and Benjamin Verhoeven

Nicodim Upstairs, Los Angeles

July 17 – August 21, 2021



Michiel Ceulers, *Dans les tubes du Guggenheim (le dernier espoir de la romance picturale)*, 2021

Michiel Ceulers' third solo exhibition with Nicodim considers the proverbial "canary in the coalmine" with new painting and sculpture. Forever employed as a harbinger of imminent danger, Ceulers concurrently examines the tiny avian as a sympathetic figure, a totem for the most fragile, the vulnerable, the first to disappear or be disappeared. Ceulers sees Los Angeles, like other cities with immense urban sprawl, as akin to the cages that isolate those canaries in the coalmines in direct opposition to their behavior when free: the birds prefer to couple-up and travel in groups. Rather than dwell on their isolation, he manifested the attitude of a canary recently liberated from solitary confinement, and invited friends Kaspar Bosmans, Wim De Pauw, Birde Vanheerswyngiels, and Benjamin Verhoeven to contribute to the show.

The discourse within the exhibition is also informed by two fictional, forever-coupled birds: Edina "Eddie" Monsoon and Patricia "Patsy" Stone, the main characters in the classic BBC series *Absolutely Fabulous*, whom Ceulers sees as one of the most complex relationships of our time. (The title of his previous exhibition, *A Condom Over A Zeppelin*, was based on a Patsy zinger about Eddie's ill-fitting outfit.) Though not always moonlight and roses, they always come through for one another in the end.

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Ceulers' art mirrors the artists' real-life and fictive relationships, reflecting and highlighting the similarities and differences between them. Mirrors, a favored medium in Ceulers' recent work, break the fourth wall of his paintings by allowing reality, if not the viewer, to occupy a place in the heart of their tableaux. In contrast with the tactile grid works for which he is best known, the mirror works act as a seduction and a distraction, they function almost as boobytraps;

when you gaze at them you end up staring at yourself and not the work. In this way, the idea of a tableau-as-representation is sabotaged. The work pushes its viewer back into the real real, and not the depicted real. Akin to the smooth surfaces of the monumental skyscrapers of downtown Los Angeles that seduce our gaze while simultaneously repulsing it with their impenetrable exteriors, the audience is (somewhat more tenderly) encouraged to look back at themselves.

Text by Michaël Van Remoortere

Michiel Ceulers (b. 1986, Waregem, Belgium) lives and works in Ghent, Belgium and Berlin, Germany. Ceulers graduated from the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam in 2011. Exhibitions include *A Condom over a Zeppelin*, Island, Brussels, Belgium (2021); *Michiel Ceulers and Jorge Peris: Endangered Species*, Galeria Nicodim, Bucharest (2020); *A Fair Proposal*, Barbara Seiler, Zurich, Switzerland (2019); *Wenn es zittert wie ein Ente*, DASH, Kortrijk, Belgium (2017, solo); *LAURA (Ein bisschen Schnitzel in Magen war mir lieber als ein Vogel in den Himmel)*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles, CA (2015, solo); *'The man who mistake his wife for a hat,'* Juliette Jongma, Amsterdam (2014, solo); *'Der Charme einer vorbeigehenden Frau steht in der Regel in direktem Verhältnis zu dem Tempo ihres Ganges,'* Nogueras Blanchard, Madrid (2014, solo); *Rien de plus qu'un théâtre d'idées fluctuantes et des échos de développements future*, Arts Club, London (2014, solo).

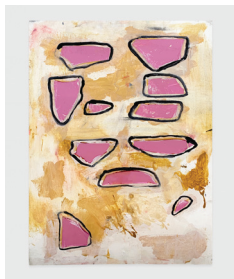
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Michiel Ceulers
Berliner Ensemble (Siesta), 2021
oil, encaustic, and perspex
on canvas and wood
25 x 15.75 in



Michiel Ceulers
Minenfeld für Rezensionen / eine Lehrstunde in Liebe (die Großzügigkeit der anderen), 2021
oil, encaustic, spray paint,
gummies, and glitter on
canvas on board
30.3 x 40 in



Birde Vanheerswynghels
untitled, 2016
phthalocyanine green
pigment on paper
103 x 59 in



Benjamin Verhoeven
Sculptural Movement: Chapter I & II, 2016
Edition of 3 + 2 AP
video; 12 minutes, 8
seconds



Kasper Bosmans
Dwarf Parade Dog (Ruby Nipples), 2018
butter, rubies
1.75 x 6.5 x 3 in



Michiel Ceulers
Denkmal/incubator, 2021
cardboard, paper, plastic,
tape
49 x 42.5 x 20.5 in.



Michiel Ceulers
Sir Robert's Faux Opening (Rapport Vroom Vroom), 2021
oil, acrylic, gloss paint, and
gummies on canvas and
tow bag
31.5 x 25.5 in



Michiel Ceulers
The herald of his artistic progeny / soufflant votre trompette au milieu d'une fanfare, 2020-2021
oil, spraypaint, encaustic &
tin foil on wood
27.25 x 33.25 in

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Michiel Ceulers
*Schlürfend aus einem
Feuerwehrschauch / when
the world is flooded dance
in the rain*, 2021
oil, acrylic, glitter, perspex,
silicone, and styrofoam on
canvas
31.5 x 39.5 in



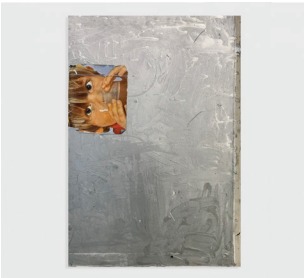
Michiel Ceulers
*Schwules Babys / Liza
Minelli est une traîtresse /
Der Satellit Jupiter*, 2021
oil, encaustic, gloss paint,
and glitter on canvas on
cardboard on wood
31.5 x 27.5 in



Michiel Ceulers
*An attempt to distance
"painting" from the hege-
mony of its image*, 2021
oil, encaustic, gloss paint,
liquin, and glitter on wood
20 x 27.5 in



Wim de Pauw
*How to disappear (in
America)*, 2019
glass, plastics
33.5 x 12.25 x 33.5 in
each



Michiel Ceulers
Starter / Boy O Boy, 2020-
2021
gloss paint and magazine
clipping on canvas and
wood
31.5 x 21.5 in



Michiel Ceulers
*Dans les tubes du Gug-
genheim (le dernier espoir
de la romance picturale)*,
2021
acrylic and perspex on
canvas and board
28 x 22.25 in



Michiel Ceulers
*Filme aus meinen Leben
blitzen vor mir auf*, 2021
bucket, cardboard, plexi-
glass, styofoam, tape, wire
25 x 22.5 x 20.5 in

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Michiel Ceulers

° Born 1986, Waregem, Belgium

Lives and works in Ghent, Belgium and Berlin, Germany

Education

- 2007 Master Fine Arts KASK, Ghent, Belgium (unfinished)
- 2004 Bachelor Painting KASK, Ghent, Belgium (unfinished)
- 2004 KSO VTI Kortrijk, Belgium

Solo Exhibitions

- 2021 *Scissor Valley People (Birds of a Feather Flock Together)*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
A Condom over a Zeppelin, Island, Brussels, Belgium
- 2020 *Jorge Peris & Michiel Ceulers: Endangered Species*, Galeria Nicodim, Bucharest, Romania
- 2017 *Wenn es zittert wie ein Ente*, DASH, Kortrijk, Belgium
- 2015 *LAURA (Ein bisschen Schnitzel in Magen war mir lieber als ein Vogel in den Himmel)*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2014 *The man who mistake his wife for a hat (Collaboration with Anthony Salvador)*, Galerie Juliette Jongma, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Der Charme einer vorbeigehenden Frau steht in der Regel in direktem Verhältnis zu dem Tempo ihres Ganges, Nogueras Blanchard, Madrid, Spain
Rien de plus qu'un théâtre d'idées fluctuantes et des échos de développements future, Arts Club, London, United Kingdom
- 2013 *Wenn Kneipen-Debatten als Kritik zählen (Collaboration with Anthony Salvador)*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Its Not Easy Being Green, Schau Ort, Zürich, Switzerland
Learning cats to say MIIIIHAAAIII, MIIIIHAAAIII, instead of MIIAAAUW, MIIAAAUW!, Galeria Nicodim, Bucharest, Romania
- 2012 *Back once again (Forever)*, Juliette Jongma, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Comment Tuer l'Amant de Sa Femme Quand on a Été Élevé Comme Moi dans La Tradition? ("How to Kill Your Wife's Lover When You Were Raised with Tradition?"), Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Des Maltendus et le Temps Perdu, Ana Cristea Gallery, New York, NY
- 2011 *JE SUIS LA*, Maes & Matthys, Antwerp, Belgium
WHEN _____ BECOMES FORM, Schau Ort, Zürich, Switzerland

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MCHL CLRS DRNK TRBL, Rod Barton, London, United Kingdom

Sexuelle Selektion und elterliche Fürsorge, PS projects, Amsterdam, Netherlands

2010 *My name is not a game*, Secondroom, Antwerp, Belgium

crox 327, Croxhapox, Ghent, Belgium

2009 *VIELE FARBIGE DINGE NEBENEINANDER ANGEORDNET*, Maes & Matthys Antwerp, Belgium

Michiel Ceulers, Rod Barton London, United Kingdom

Selected Group Exhibitions

2021 *The land of Confused, notes on Location* curated by Flor Maesen & Michiel Ceulers in collaboration with Komplot, Brussels, Belgium

Bye Bye His- Story, Le Centre de la Gravure et de l'image imprimée, La Louvière, Belgium

2020 *The land of confused reviewed*, Komplot, Brussels, Belgium

Ulterieur, Avey Gallery, Kortrijk, Belgium

Subject sitting in darkened room, Barbara Seiler Gallery, Zürich, Switzerland

The land of confused, weekly summer festival Komplot, Brussels, Belgium

2019 *Biënnale van België*, Florariënhof, Ghent, Belgium

A Fair Proposal, Barbara Seiler, Zurich, Switzerland

One Night Only, Ltd Ink Corporation, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

2018 *The Hazenstraat Biennale*, Martin van Zomeren, Amsterdam, Netherlands

2017 *HOMEWARD BOUND*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

Potential Dwellers, DMW Art Space, Antwerp, Belgium

2016 *These Shapes Remind Me of You*, Galerie Juliette Jongma, Amsterdam, Netherlands

GOGOGOGO, DMW Artspace, Johan Gelper, Antwerp, Belgium

2015 *Ver-Revelar*, MUSAC, León, Spain

Group Show, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

Politics of the Surface, Berhold Pott, Cologne, Germany

2014 *(Nothing But) Flowers*, Nathalie Karg Gallery, New York, NY

Verf na van Eyck, croxhapox, Ghent, Belgium

10 years PS projects, Service Garage, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Collection Nicodim, Galeria Nicodim, Bucharest, Romania

Credit to the Edit, CNEAI, Chatou, Paris, France

Credit to the Edit, Masereel Centrum, Kasterlee, Belgium

Michiel Ceulers / Paul Czerlitzki, König Galerie, Berlin, Germany

2013 *Group Show*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

AND MAE AND MAC AND ME, Barbara Seiler Gallery, Zürich, Switzerland

Works to follow II, Le Routier, Ghent, Belgium

D, ZweiDrei Gitschiner Straaße 20, Berlin, Germany

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- Constructies*, EMERGE, Veurne, Belgium
Maes & Matthys at Villa, Knokke, Belgium
Works to follow, Routier Ghent, Belgium
Fractura 2013, CIAP, Hasselt, Belgium
In-Discipline, Bonnefanten Museum Roermond, Roermond, Netherlands
Can't Hear My Eyes, Nogueras Blanchard, Madrid, Spain
- 2012 *een être ET ne pas en être*, Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, Netherlands
presentation private collection, Galerie Bart kunst in huis, Nijmegen, Netherlands
Secret Postcards, Jan van Eyck Academie, Maastricht, Netherlands
everybody else was either busy or dead, Schau Ort, Zürich, Switzerland
Fact Mystic, Juliette Jongma, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Closed because of the goings-on, Dukan Hourdequin, Paris, France
Rasterfahndung, kunstmuseum Stuttgart, Stuttgart, Germany
FAMILY MATTERS, Le Courant, Brussels, Belgium
TLK DRTY, Amstel 41, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Revolving doors / Marcel Duchamp, CC Strombeek, Strombeek-Bever, Belgium
Maes en Matthys Antwerp, Belgium
- 2011 *Des Galeires a la Galerie*, Galerie Sint-Lucas, Luik, Belgium
GNFR, Monty, Antwerp, Belgium
Rijksakademie Open 2011, Rijksakademie, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Accidental Thoughts and Metaphors, Ana Cristea Gallery, New York, NY
Park 5, veltwijcklaan 9, Ekeren, Belgium
Off-Site Show, Rod Barton, London, United Kingdom
Dirty Dancing, Figge von Rosen, Cologne, Antwerp
Jan Wyffels & Michiel Ceulers, expo 57, Menen, Belgium
Young Belgian Painters Award / Prix de la Jeune Peinture Belge / Prijs van de Belgische Schilderkunst, Bozar, Brussels, Belgium
My hands in your sneakers, Juliette Jongma, Amsterdam, Netherlands
DACEY + CEULERS, Vondoeing Contemporary, Schwäbisch Hall, Germany
YUMMY, YUMMY, YUMMY, I GOT LOVE IN MY TUMMY, Scheldapen, Antwerp, Belgium
Proposé une expo, CC De Schakel, Waregem, Belgium
- 2010 *Small show*, Maes en Matthys, Antwerp, Belgium
(NO)SNAPS, Freeman Gallery, Aardenburg, Netherlands
Kunstenfestival Watou 2010 - Tussen Taal en Beeld/ Verzamelde Verhalen #02, Watou, Belgium
Benefit sale Secondroom, Secondroom, Antwerp, Belgium
PLATINUM METRE, Aschenbach & Hofland, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Benefit auction Museum Dhondt Dhaenens, Museum Dhondt Dhaenens, Deurle, Belgium
ART ITS, zwarte zaal KASK, Ghent, Belgium
Groupshow, Maes en Matthys, Antwerp, Belgium

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- Whatbar # 8 THE NON-OBVIOUS-BAR'*, The Boadicea, London, United Kingdom
Changez! Een Belgen show, 21rozendaal Enschede, Netherlands
- 2009 *Gaverprijs 2010 cc de schakel*, Waregem, Belgium
De Collectie, dummy, Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 21, Ghent, Belgium
Maes en Matthys, Antwerp, Belgium
Kiosk Vaast Colson, week 2 Kiosk, Ghent, Belgium
Secondroom at Zennestraat, Brussels, Belgium
Auf der Spitze des Eisbergs, Rod Barton, London, United Kingdom
Choose On/e, Galerie Kunstzicht, Ghent, Belgium
Whatbar 5, private house, Ghent, Belgium
Pure Peinture, benniale voor jonge schilders Montanus 5, Diksmuide, Belgium
- 2008 *To be confirmed*, private house, Antwerp, Belgium
Abstract, Maes & Matthys, Antwerp, Belgium
Fris VI, Jan Colle, Ghent, Belgium
KASKweek, KASK, Ghent, Belgium
Confrontation/Interaction, Campo Victoria, Ghent, Belgium
Dialyse, Campo Santo, Ghent, Belgium
Toonmoment Master schilderkunst, Croxhapox, Ghent, Belgium
- 2007 *The winning team*, Galerie Kunst-Zicht, Ghent, Belgium
In spe, Netwerk, Aalst, Belgium
- 2006 *KASKweek*, KASK, Ghent, Belgium
2, KASK, Ghent, Belgium