

DOUWES FINE ART B.V.

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EVERT THIELEN

Successful reality..... human realism and healthy tension!



Evert Thielen (Venlo 1954) studied at the Royal Academy of Art in The Hague. Due to his impressive narrative triptychs (five in total) and his striking, colourful and realistic paintings, he became a special phenomenon in the art world.

In recent years he has exhibited in several major Dutch museums such as: the Cobra Museum in Amstelveen (2002), in the Westfries Museum in Hoorn (2004) Museum Jan van der Togt in Amstelveen (2000 & 2005), The Noordbrabants Museum in Den Bosch (2005), the Museum de Fundatie in Zwolle(2011) and in Slot Zeist in Zeist (2013).

At almost every occasion a book was published about his work. Evert Thielen first took part in a prestigious exhibition in Belgium with several international greats of modern and contemporary art. The exhibition was entitled “Between Earth and Heaven,” that the late Willy Vandenbussche organised as a kind of statement in, what was then called, the Museum of Modern Art in Ostend.

In addition to exhibiting in major museums, Evert Thielen has also participated in respectable, (inter) national art fairs for many years, such as the TEFAF Maastricht. His Belgian participation in Art Nocturne Knocke (August 2014) was unique and a positive influence for an already important event. Recent work of Evert Thielen will be extensively presented during the Dutch National PAN art fair in Amsterdam in November 2014 by the internationally

renowned art dealer Douwes Fine Art in Amsterdam. On a permanent basis works by Thielen will be on display in the Douwes galleries in Amsterdam and in their joint-gallery in Hong Kong.



Thielen's choice of subject and work process are always remarkably astute. In his paintings he uses century-old painting techniques, particularly those of the Flemish Primitives. He provides his panel with a signature and then minutely paints layer upon layer. The paint itself he fabricates from various ground pigments mixed with linseed oil and egg (tempera). By applying the layers of paint in different levels he creates an exquisite transparency and depth in his artworks; the subject matter is displayed as lifelike as possible. His approach shows an extreme sense of perfectionism, love for revitalising old craft skills and unconditional surrender to the craftsmanship. He combines this commitment with a strong fascination for surprisingly topical scenes. Extant knowledge and skills are connected by him to the modern way of life.

Because the work of Evert Thielen is commonly defined as 'realistic painting', the unusual context and extraordinary situations that arise in his work are often ignored. They reveal a layered reality full of metaphors, double meanings and subtle references. They ensure that the representations rise above the mundane or predictable reality. In his recent work he is more true to himself. Both subtle details and lavish staging point to the need for freedom and an independent attitude. The images are so penetrating and evoke so many questions about their origin, that it is impossible not to stop and wonder. They tell us something about what life has imposed upon him and about events that have occurred in his immediate vicinity. Thielen uses subtle cinematic effects and theatrical interventions. In his works, he plays with foreground and background, where in the decor that forms the background is just as sharp as the attributes in the foreground. Through this kaleidoscopic way of working, he is able to express motion and thus "time". This is how his technical ability is a prerequisite for the display of contemporary themes.

To translate his thoughts and moods to the World, people are often the focus of his work. Beside this we also see in his works current, real objects, such as a cactus, a hammock or a trunk. These lifeless objects alongside human figures, mostly women, express a deeper meaning. At first sight seemingly unrelated, yet so intimately connected. Also carefully painted light and shadows are characteristic in his work and strengthen the relationship between the figures.



“The image is already in my head before I paint it. This sometimes makes it difficult to find the objects and models that correspond precisely to the image in my mind. ”..... says Evert Thielen

We are pleased to be able to represent the work of this great artist, who shall continue to earn his spurs in the future!

Note:

some citation text and quotes are from:

Exhibition catalogue, Museum van Moderne Kunst, 2000, Oostende, Belgium;

Wim van der Beek, 'Evert Thielen, het schilderij als podium', Zwolle 2011 with text from

Drs. Karin van Lieverloo, Museum 'de Fundatie' and art critic Hugo Brutin.