

PRESS RELEASE

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ANTOINE ROEGIERS

LE BAL DES GÉANTS

24, RUE DU VIEUX-BILLARD

Art Bärtschi & Cie is pleased to welcome for the third time the young Belgian artist **Antoine Roegiers**. Inspired by the works of Peter Paul Rubens and digital tools, he presents a work on movement through a series of oil paintings specially designed for this major exhibition.

Born in Braine in 1980 and graduated with honours from the Ecole des Beaux-Arts de Paris in 2007, Antoine Roegiers lives and works in Paris. A multidisciplinary artist, he also paints and masters technological tools, a medium he has been using since 2005 to explore, dissect and extend the works of great masters such as Jérôme Bosch and Pieter Bruegel.

In 2012, in his work *Les Sept péchés Capitaux* - presented at the gallery in September 2013 - he attempted to reveal Bruegel's singular poetics by animating laziness, pride, gluttony, lust, avarice, anger and envy in seven 3-minute videos. While the Palais des Beaux-Arts in Lille dedicated a solo exhibition to him in 2012, his installation traveled to the Albertina Museum in Vienna the following year and will be part of a group exhibition at the Harvard Art Museums in Massachusetts in 2016.

The technological tools used to produce these videos, their visual effects on still images, focus, depth of field, offered him a new source of inspiration. Indeed, for this new project, which he named "Le Bal des Géants", Antoine Roegiers proceeded in stages: he selected details from the Dutch painter's works that he then moved and modified on the computer to create new paintings. He enlarged them and then created motion blurs to accentuate the movement. Finally, after various adjustments, he tried to retrieve the digital renderings through oil painting.

As he explains, painting is demanding and the reproduction of these artificial icy images forces him to find new pictorial solutions. The material obeys other rules and it is impossible for him to reproduce his digital document as it is, which was ultimately only a starting point: painting is alive, the painting continues to build itself and to surprise him in the very realization of gesture and color.

By transposing the aesthetics of another time into our contemporary visual environment, Antoine Roegiers creates a universe where characters, animals and different eras meet and merge in a surprising "ball of giants".