

PRESS RELEASE

FROM 30.08 TO 19.10.2018

ANTOINE ROEGIERS

CARNAVALS

43, ROUTE DES JEUNES

OPENING ON 30.08 – 18H

Art Bärtschi & Cie is pleased to welcome for the fourth time the Belgian artist Antoine Roegiers with an exhibition based on the video *Carnavals*. The film, which will have lasted more than a year in conception, invites the viewer to enter the world of outstanding works from the history of art. Thanks to the technique of animated film, the artist takes us on a discovery of Bruegel the Elder (1525-1569) and James Ensor (1860-1949).

Carnavals, an animated plunge into works of reference, projects us into the setting of Pieter Bruegel's *Le Combat de Carnaval et Carême* (1559), where a new story is gradually being woven. This peaceful journey, accompanied by music composed by Antoine Marroncles, is quickly marked by the eruption of scenes from other paintings by Bruegel, but also from paintings by Jérôme Bosch and Bruegel the Younger. Later, it is characters and scenes from Ensor's paintings that invade the world of Bruegel the Elder. The works then communicate with each other; they merge to become one and dialogue at intervals of several centuries. By appropriating elements from the paintings of his predecessors, which he repaints meticulously on paper before animating them on computer, Antoine Roegiers opens up the fields of the possible in an original work.

The film *Carnavals* also became one of Antoine Roegiers' main sources of inspiration. From this creation, he imagined a series of three new oils on wood. This new collection of individual portraits presents certain figures from the film painted in the manner of traditional portraits, creating a striking and strange discrepancy between the classical style and these mysteriously masked characters. Around thirty preparatory drawings, even matrices of the final production, will offer a glimpse of the artist's work.

Two other video works complete the exhibition. The first, *The Last Dance*, is a passage taken from *Carnavals* in which the characters are resituated in their original context, namely James Ensor's *Skeleton Stopping Masks* painting. The second video, *Pornocratès dans tous ses états*, uses the same process as *Carnavals*. In it, the artist animates different versions of an emblematic engraving of Félicien Rops' work made by Albert Bertrand (1896).

Born in 1980 in Braine de l'Alleud, Belgium, Antoine Roegiers lives and works in Paris. A multidisciplinary artist, he paints and masters digital tools. He uses these mediums to explore and extend the works of Flemish painters, in particular the worlds of Jérôme Bosch, Pieter Brueghel and Peter Paul Rubens. The transmission of inspiration between generations is a recurring theme in the artist's work and is also a way of introducing old masters to new audiences. Antoine Roegiers received the Roger Bataille Prize in 2007 and was awarded a residency at the 8-art Centre in Beijing in 2012. His work has recently been exhibited at the Musée Félicien Rops in Namur, the Mu.Zee in Ostend, the Albertina Museum in Vienna and the Palacio Bellas Artes in Mexico City.