

## ***Ideas of Something Vivid***

*Jonas Vanderbeke – Toon Jans – Jelle Spruyt*

Welcome to *Ideas of Something Vivid* – an exhibition that brings together the works of three distinct artists who engage with vividness in surprising ways: Jonas Vanderbeke, Toon Jans, and Jelle Spruyt.

Passionate about the vastness of nature, the beauty and symbolism of flowers, and the rich complexity of botanical structures, each of the three artists invites us to look...To really look, and to look again. Through their unique perspectives and creative processes, Jonas, Toon, and Jelle invite us to reconsider the familiar and venture into the uncharted and ephemeral aspects of beauty, memory, and nature.

Jonas Vanderbeke is on a continuous journey of experimentation within the realm of painting. Drawing inspiration from the juxtaposition of digital precision as part of the process, and human imperfection, Jonas's work unfolds as a dynamic interplay between digital collages and canvas. His paintings, born from this tension, emerge as a celebration of colour and form. Each piece is a testament to his commitment to capturing the essence of the narratives that inspire him, whether this is a 19th century novel by French writer Joris-karl Huysmans, or a pop song by Lana Del Rey.

Toon Jans, with his playful approach to photography, invites us to traverse the intricate corridors of memory. From his childhood days capturing familial moments on an analog camera to his recent incorporation of drawings, paint, and words onto his prints, Toon's work is about transformation; his pictures go through deconstruction and reconstruction and emerge as pieces that are hard to categorize.

Toon's work often evokes a melancholic beauty, prompting us to reflect on our connection with nature and the memories that shape us, but also more broadly, to consider how we treat the earth we live on.

Jelle Spruyt transports us to a playful place where we may feel confused about what we are looking at, even though his objects look strangely familiar. With his passion for plant iconography in Persian rugs, and the growth patterns of real plants, Jelle's sculptural wall pieces exude autonomy. These intriguing textile sculptures, resembling organic creatures, celebrate the complex harmony between the tangible and the symbolic, urging us to contemplate the mysteries of growth and interconnectedness. And moreover, they ask us to dwell for a moment on the vivid beauty and sense of balance that the pieces incorporate.

*Ideas of Something Vivid* is an exhibition that invites us to reimagine the familiar, and embark on a journey of introspection. In other words, the exhibition asks us to open our eyes to what is in front of us. As we navigate through the distinct *ideas* offered to us by Jonas Vanderbeke, Toon Jans, and Jelle Spruyt, we are reminded that art is a vessel through which we can explore the convergence of memory, transformation, and natural wonders.

It's my hope that you will take a moment to dwell on the works and enjoy their presence in a simple and direct way, celebrating the uniqueness of each piece, as well as reflecting upon their potential meanings. As you walk through the exhibition, you may discover, or create, your own potential narratives, woven together by the three artists. Each of them is contributing their unique voice to this beautiful symphony that I see as a collection of vivid ideas.

*Matthias Vico Persson*