

DIRK BRAECKMAN

"Photography is, for me, an almost obsessive attempt to scan, in my own way, everything around me, everything I meet, driven by the desire to give order to chaos. With or without a camera."

-Dirk Braeckman



Dirk Braeckman, *X.L.-I.C.-16*, 2016.

ROSEGALLERY is pleased to present Dirk Braeckman's premiere west coast, solo exhibition, on view from 30 April 2016 through 13 August 2016. The reception for the artist is Saturday, 30 April 2016, from six to eight pm.

First experimenting with photography in the 1980's, Dirk Braeckman's work has evolved into a singular form that evokes minds of sensual ambiguity and intimate solitude. Through the use of black and white, analogue photography and dark lab techniques, the artist develops a relationship between what is photographed and post-production manipulation. This relationship allows for the found, often commonplace subject...a row of curtains, an empty doorway or a woman's crossed legs...to arrest attention and command a space that is ordinarily unobserved.

Braeckman transforms the darkroom into a field of experimentation, working closely with the materiality of the photograph. This intimate relationship with his photographic materials mirrors the intimate perspective when photographing his subjects. By utilizing tonalities of the gray-scale and focusing on acute details, such as the folds of a fabric or the curvature of the female form, Braeckman asks the viewer to engage with simple subjects that are often lost in shades of gray.

Dirk Braeckman (b. 1958 in Eeklo, Belgium) was educated at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Ghent, Belgium, where he received his MFA in Photography and Film. Upon graduating in 1982, Braeckman, along with Magnum photographer, Carl De Keyzer, founded the renowned gallery and photo-magazine, Gallery XYZ. Braeckman has received considerable acclaim for his commissioned portraits of the Royal Family of Belgium, including King Albert II and Queen Paola.

Braeckman's photographs have been the subject of numerous solo exhibitions, including S.M.A.K. in Ghent, Le Bal in Paris and the De Pont Foundation in Tilburg. In addition to this solo work, the artist has created site-specific installations, such as the recently permanent installation of his work *H.S.-N.Y.-94-99*, within the Concert Hall of Bruges. In 2002, he was granted the cultural award of the University of Louvain and received the Cultural Prize of the Flemish Community, Section Fine Arts in 2005. Braeckman's work can be found in various public collections around the world, including the Bibliothèque Nationale de France in Paris, the Royal Museum of Fine Arts in Brussels and the Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco. The artist was most recently featured in the Photo Art book and published by Dumont, Thames & Hudson and Aperture. Braeckman currently works and resides in Ghent, Belgium.

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