

Some information on this page is only available in Dutch

MELLE DE BOER

My practice spans painting, printmaking, drawing, writing, and music. My recent work represents a shift, begun around 2018, when I set music to the side and devoted my time to painting. This has resulted in a new body of significantly different and confident work. Within these new paintings, I leave smudged traces, and do not allow myself to repeat successful compositions. By returning to paintings after some time, or working from a chaotic palette, surprising choices can emerge. While I aim for abstract forms, I also sometimes use text fragments, or ambiguous, reduced images, which disrupts the work's relationship with true abstraction. These shifting parameters enable me to circumvent the urge I have to seek approval in the viewer. Creating an atmosphere of the unexpected, I see every work as an opportunity to challenge the desire for control. During 2021 I compiled a 55000-word inventory of my life, Inventaris, as a way to methodically trace and understand these recent changes in my work. This invasive or even obscene exercise exposes every mundane, beautiful, and painful event that shapes self-perception and the resulting work I make. While Inventaris is a tool, which I use to develop my painting, it is also a work in itself. It helps me situate my other 'lives' as a writer and musician within my artistic practice, and also critically reflects on how the self can be constructed and narrativized. Inventaris has helped me recognize how I often sought external approval through the use of more explicit narrative and figurative elements, a tendency that lessens as I move towards increasingly autonomous paintings. In earlier work, the adoption of such strategies was usually an attempt to compensate for insecurity, in particular that my identity as an artist was somehow compromised by my identity as a songwriter. I was interested in hero myths, and the mechanism of idolization; due to the way such ideas present the chance to embody different identities. The fear of both being seen and being invisible is something I recognize strongly in myself, but also observe as a tension many other artists — and others in general — struggle with. I still find this a fascinating conflict, one that has a powerful impact on how artists, including myself, approach the working process. Within my own practice, I do not see these ideas as negative, but rather as generative. Acknowledging and investigating such tensions through my work has allowed me to critically engage with perc

WEBSITES

www.mowingclub.com

www.melledeboer.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.facebook.com/melle.deboer.714

www.instagram.com/melle_deboer/

MEMBER OF ARTISTS' INITIATIVE/COLLECTIVE/INCUBATOR

Billytown

EDUCATION

1995 tekenen/schilderen Rotterdam, Willem de Kooning Academie diploma

EXHIBITIONS

2025	Museum Rijswijk (upcomming) Rijswijk, Netherlands
2024	Ohne Ende Billytown Den Haag, Netherlands Curator en Deelnemer. Met o.a. Jacqueline Peeters en Nies Vooijs www.billytown.org Group
2024	Art Island Forteiland IJmuiden, Netherlands www.art-island.nl/ Group
2023	Not an Asshole Off Hook Groningen, Netherlands www.offhook.nl/ Solo
2022	8.Salon Hamburg, Germany Solo
2021	M.Simons Amsterdam, Netherlands Solo
2020	Not Cancelled (The Netherlands edition) online
2019	The Last Romantic Painter Billytown
2019	De Apotheek Amsterdam, Netherlands Group
2019	Parallel Vienna Wenen, Austria Group
2018	Parallel Vienna Wenen, Austria Den Haag Group
2015	Museum van Bommel van Dam Venlo Group
2011	Nest, Den Haag (Comic Site Of Art) Curator en deelnemer Group

PROJECTS

2016	Smetvis Stichting Brul Tekeningen bij project Smetvis
2015	Atelier route Jacobastraat Atelier route
2012	Zinder Stella Bouw Schommel
2010	Billytown Billytown

COMMISSIONS

2014	Museum voor Communicatie Den Haag Multi Media project
2012	Paard van Troje Den Haag Zeefruk aandeelhouders finished

SALES/WORKS IN COLLECTIONS

2012	Hoge School Rotterdam Meerdere werken op Papier
2004	Ministerie van Buitelandse zaken Meerdere weken op papier

2003 Museum van Bommel van Dam Venlo
Meerdere werken op papier

PUBLICATIONS

2015 Melleville II Melle de Boer, Den Haag
Catalogus

2012 Aanwinst Kunstcollectie Hogeschool
Rotterdam Catalogus

2005 That seventies show Gallery Livingstone
Catalogus

2003 True Heroes Museum van Bommel van
Dam Catalogus

AWARDS AND GRANTS

2018 (sinds 2004) Stroom, Den Haag Den Haag,
Netherlands Pro Onderzoek

2015 project subsidie Stroom

2002 Basisstipendium Fonds van Beeldende
Kunsten, Amsterdam

2000 Basisstipendium Fonds van Beeldende
Kunsten, Amsterdam

1997 Startstipendium Fonds van Beeldende
Kunsten, Amsterdam

REPRESENTATION

-- Livingstone Gallery Den Haag

SECONDARY ART-RELATED ACTIVITIES

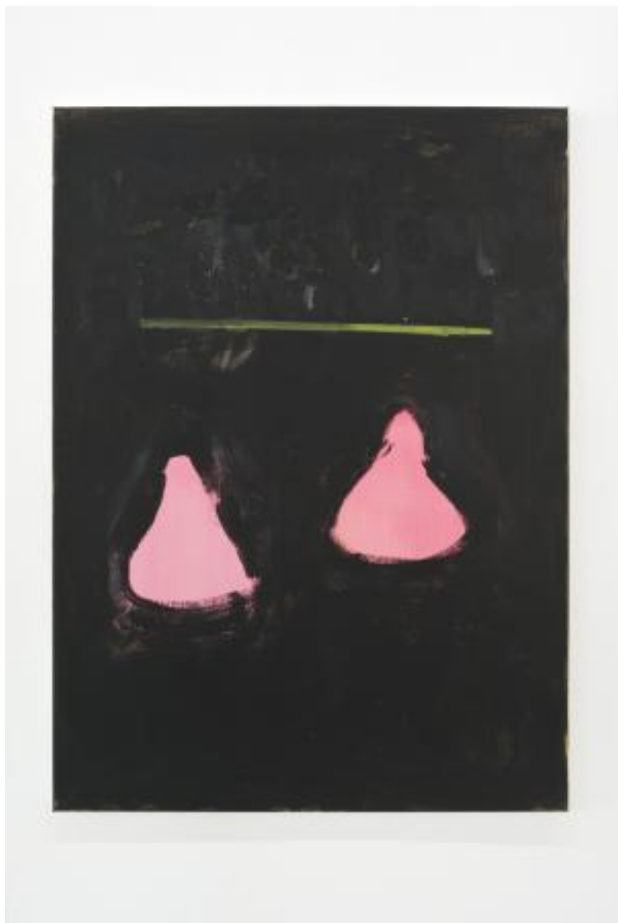
2000 - -- Smutfish/John Dear Mowing Club
(www.mowingclub.com) On-going



Zadel (Groen), 2025
oil on linnen, 30x40



Frogs Eat Butterflies, Snakes Eat Frogs, Hogs Eat Snakes,
Men Eat Hogs, 2024
oil on linnen, 40x30



Georg Trakl, 2024
oil on linnen, 120x100 cm

R.R. , 2024



How to Find Relationships That Are Good for You and
Avoid Those That Aren't. , 2023
Oil in linnen, 40x50 cm



Reality is not what is used to be, 2022
Oil on wood, 32x40cm

P.G. Everything Must Be Doubted, 2022
oil in linnen, 100x120



P.P. Boots, 2020
oil on linnen, 30x40cm



Parallel Vienna, 2019



Of Modern Poetry, 2018
oil on linnen, 30x40