

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.melledeboer.com](http://www.melledeboer.com)

[www.mowingclub.com](http://www.mowingclub.com)

## SOCIAL MEDIA

[www.facebook.com/melle.deboer.714](https://www.facebook.com/melle.deboer.714)

[www.instagram.com/melle\\_deboer/](https://www.instagram.com/melle_deboer/)

## MEMBER OF ARTISTS' INITIATIVE/COLLECTIVE/INCUBATOR

Billytown

## EDUCATION

1995      tekenen/schilderen Rotterdam, Willem de  
Kooning Academie diploma

## EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 Zonder Alles is er Niets Billytown Den Haag, Netherlands Solo show Schilderijen en Sculptuur.  
[www.billytown.org](http://www.billytown.org)  
Solo
- 2025 One Way Or The Other Het Wilde Weten Curator en Deelnemer ism Nies Vooijs  
[trendbeheer.com/2025/11/04/one-way-or-the-other-a-painting-show-het-wilde-weten/](http://trendbeheer.com/2025/11/04/one-way-or-the-other-a-painting-show-het-wilde-weten/)  
Group
- 2024 Ohne Ende Billytown Den Haag, Netherlands Curator en Deelnemer. Met o.a. Jacqueline Peeters en Nies Vooijs [www.billytown.org](http://www.billytown.org)  
Group
- 2024 Art Island Forteiland IJmuiden, Netherlands [www.art-island.nl/](http://www.art-island.nl/)  
Group
- 2023 Not an Asshole Off Hook Groningen, Netherlands [www.offhook.nl/](http://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

- 2025 BinnenhofBuiten Den Haag, Netherlands Een vitrine vol hooi op de Lange Vijverberg in Den Haag
- 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

- M.Simons Gallery Amsterdam,  
Netherlands  
<https://www.michielsimons.com/>

## SECONDARY ART-RELATED ACTIVITIES

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



twee golven, 2026



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



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



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



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



