

PRESS RELEASE

Dirk De Wachter Museum Art & psychiatry in borderline times

25 June 2016 - 25 September 2016

Dr. Guislain Museum

This summer the Dr. Guislain Museum will transform into the *Dirk De Wachter Museum*. Triggered by psychiatrist Dirk De Wachter's bestseller *Borderline Times*, the curators of the museum, Dirk De Wachter and fellow psychiatrist Erik Thys went on the look-out for art reflecting our times. For De Wachter, the nine symptoms that were indicated in the DSM IV as typical of borderline personality disorder say a lot about the current state of society. His *Borderline Times* shifted the focus from the individual to the collective. Conclusion: we are living in borderline times. From separation anxiety, to affective instability or impulsiveness, the nine criteria are a guiding principle for his sharp analysis. In addition, he is inspired by the work of Michel Houellebecq and Levinas, but also by that of artists like Koen van den Broek, Rinus Van de Velde, Francis Bacon and others.



Koen van den Broek



Charles Benefiel

Art is never far away in his practice as a psychiatrist. The fact that visual art and literature tell more about man and society than any professional journal, is a witticism often raised by De Wachter. An exhibition in cooperation with this psychiatrist is therefore no surprise. The *Dirk De Wachter Museum* does not want to be a reflection of the various chapters of *Borderline Times*, but is a cause and source of inspiration for looking for art that says something about today and evokes emotions of isolation, meaninglessness, lack of stability, etc. In other words, *Dirk De Wachter Museum* looks for ways in which contemporary art represents the current society and times, and how it, in its own language, exposes its shortcomings and possibilities. Works of, among others, Marina Abramović, Giovanni Anselmo, Dirk Braeckman, Rodney Graham, Nan Goldin, Bruce Nauman and ORLAN are included in this exhibition.

The huge attention for book and author says a lot about the obstacles the psychiatrist touches upon with his work, but it also says something about the position he has in society. With this, Dirk De Wachter is part of an interesting history, in which psychiatrists such as Jan Hendrik van den Berg, Sigmund Freud, Jacques Lacan and psychologists such as Steven De Batselier, preceded him. Just like them, De Wachter claims his place in the public forum.



Walter Swennen

Not only does De Wachter have his own practice, he can also be seen as an expert in numerous TV programmes, he gives lectures, is asked to open exhibitions, has his own live show, and so on. His opinion is asked about major and minor issues. In short, his opinion counts. The captivating social position of this psychiatrist inspired the curators for the second part of this exhibition. The figure, the phenomenon Dirk De Wachter is positioned between his predecessors. This way, we get to see how the psychiatrist and, indirectly, psychiatry gradually gained a place in the public domain: from the margin into the floodlight.



Marina Abramović

The exhibition Museum Dirk De Wachter is a cooperation between psychiatrists Dirk De Wachter and Erik Thys and the curators of the Dr. Guislain Museum.

The exhibition is accompanied by a richly illustrated catalogue in Dutch (NL, 144 p., Uitgeverij Lannoo).