

PRESS RELEASE

Jan van de Pavert

Schauspiel

19 January – 2 March 2024

Preview 18 January 2024

HIDDE VAN SEGGELEN proudly presents a solo exhibition by Dutch artist Jan van de Pavert.

Jan van de Pavert (born 1960, the Netherlands) investigates the artist's commitment from the perspective of the autonomy of art. He travels back in time, to historical sites or fictional locations, engages in dialogue there with historical or fictional artists and creates work representing social change.

Initially, van de Pavert became known for his sculptures, his early works referred to architecture and resembled parts from buildings, such as windows and doors. Later, the artist decided to use these architectural elements in films as well and eventually started using computer animations. As this developed, he focused more and more on murals. In an interview he justified this as follows: "I could put an entire exhibition in one film. While I was working on that, I decided to add murals to the spaces. I asked myself the question: if these spaces were covered with murals, what kind of iconography would they show? What would muralism, like Diego Rivera's, look like in this day and age?"

A central topic in van de Pavert's drawings is the development of figuration. He took historical paintings originating in earlier centuries as his starting point, asking himself: what do these works mean to our world right now? The themes he developed in response to this question refer to the avant-garde movements and the political left. Later, he focused more on youth, the 1960s and 1970s and the idea of freedom.

His latest series presented in our gallery is based on Frances Trollope's book *The Life and Adventures of Michael Armstrong, the Factory Boy* from 1840. It was an indictment of the consequences of mechanisation and lawlessness from the late 18th century onwards. The success of industrialisation was the misfortune of many shepherds and day labourers being driven to the factories. The main focus of Trollope's complaint was the lack of legislation around child labour and working hours;



Jan van de Pavert, *Wanhoop (Despair)*, 2023, oil on aluminium, 217.7 x 150 cm
Photo: Lotte Stekelenburg

because children were cheaper, they were employed for work while many parents spent their day in unemployment. To keep up their 16-hour working days, children were whipped out of sleep by guards. Trollope's book was illustrated by Auguste Hervieu, who had visited the factories with Trollope from 1832.

Frances Trollope's book, applied to our times, is a hyperbole. The return of relative poverty and the impossibility for some people to sustain a certain state of life nevertheless makes Trollope relevant even today. And despair is despair: that is of all times. Van de Pavert took the illustrations in the book as a starting point for tableau vivants or re-enactments, performed by members of the Feminist Crafts Party and others.

HIDDE VAN SEGGELEN
H a m b u r g

Van de Pavert's oeuvre depicts a line of thought about our time, but 'here and now' and history mingle freely. The artist mirrors his works to episodes from the history of art and culture. He pursues, above all, the modern dream.

Jan van de Pavert studied at the art academy St. Joost, Breda and at De Ateliers, Amsterdam (formerly Ateliers 63). He was awarded the prestigious Dutch art price Prix de Rome in 1987 and the Dr. A. H. Heineken Price for the Arts 1998.

Solo-exhibitions included Museum Boijmans van Beuningen (2016) and the Centraal Museum Utrecht (1992).

Van de Pavert participated in Sonsbeek '93 (Arnhem) and Artranspennine (Kingston upon Hull, 1998).

The artist lives and works in Rotterdam.

Works in public collections include Centraal Museum Utrecht, Van Abbemuseum Eindhoven, Kröller-Müller Museum, Otterlo and the Margulies Collection at The Warehouse, Miami. A work was commissioned for 'When Elephants Come Marching in', an exhibition curated by Mark Kremer for Art Centre De Appel in Amsterdam, 2014.

A new monograph by the artist was presented in November 2023. The book 'Jan van de Pavert. Collected Works' showcases his work from 1981 onwards with texts by Mark Kremer and the artist. The publication was published by Jap Sam Books and will be available at the gallery.

The exhibition, featuring Jan van de Pavert's recent paintings and a selection of architectural models, is on view from 19 January until 2 March 2024 at the gallery.

Preview on Thursday 18 January from 6 pm.
The artist will be present.

For further information and images, please contact the gallery at mail@hiddevanseggelen.com

The artist is available for an interview.