

Laurent Dupont-Garitte

*Breughel* (1963 by Cockerill Yards, Hoboken), 2014

Oil on canvas paper, 48 x 33 cm

*Jordaens* (1964 by Cockerill Yards, Hoboken), 2014

Oil on canvas paper, 48 x 33cm

*Rubens* (1964 by Cockerill Yards, Hoboken), 2014

Oil on canvas paper, 48 x 33cm

*Teniers* (1964 by Cockerill Yards, Hoboken), 2014

Oil on canvas paper, 48 x 33cm

Audio compilation

°1976, Liège, lives and works in Brussels

Laurent Dupont-Garitte uses different media in his work, from painting to installation and video. He is interested in the ephemeral, the trace left behind by certain actions and the feeling of alienation, which often arises when interpreted. In his work *American Objects* (2012) and *Objets de Bruxelles* (2012) Laurent Dupont-Garitte investigates the cultural origin and dissemination of particular objects by covering them layer-by-layer with paint. This action changes the status of these everyday found objects and results in a rather abstract sculptural installation in which the suggestive is emphasized.

The new work that Laurent Dupont-Garitte presents in this exhibition starts out from the immediate surroundings of AIR Antwerpen, more precisely, the Belgian Ships Archive across the street, on the one hand, and the many forms of gentrification, on the other hand. The Belgian Ships Archive contains documents (logbooks, stamps, administration etc.) and pictures of all ships that have sailed under Belgian flag since 1830. A group of retired skippers and employees from the Antwerp port set up a club that organises and runs the archive. On the ground floor there is a small museum with an adjoining club house, including a bar. The museum contains all kinds of paraphernalia, among which a number of painted portraits of ships. These portraits are the result of the intense relationship the skippers built with their ships during their long voyages. Upon their return they often commissioned a painting of the ship, which had been their place of work and residence for sometimes more than a year. The paintings are made using a specific cost-reducing technique which Laurent Dupont-Garitte copies in his creation of the four naval paintings shown here: the Brueghel, Rubens, Teniers and Jordaens. Laurent Dupont-Garitte chose for a traditional set-up, which

lends the portraits an air of stateliness. A vitrine displays the traces the ships left behind in the Belgian Ship Archive. The room is also filled with lounge music and furniture copied from different bars and restaurants that pop up during the summer in this area. The installation shows both influence spheres. Laurent Dupont-Garitte creates a moment in which these two diverse experiences come together.

Laurent Dupont-Garitte has taken part in the following solo exhibitions (a selection): *Objets de Bruxelles*, SIC, Brussel, 2012; *American Objects*, ACP, Los Angeles, 2012; *To Reside*, Wiels Project Room, Brussels, 2010; *La Collection Dupont-Garitte*, Flux Gallery, Liège, 2008; *Faites semblant de vous intéresser à une statue tout en dirigeant votre objectif vers votre sujet*, Hedah, Maastricht, 2007. His work has also featured in the following group exhibitions (a selection): *Residue*, Wiels, Brussels, 2013; *Time Space Poker Face*, Be-Part, Waregem, 2013; *Amicale Succursale Prolongation*, by Joëlle Tuerlinckx, Nächst St. Stephan Gallery, Vienna, 2012; *No Dancing*, Favorite Goods Gallery, Los Angeles, 2012; *The -scape in Escape*, Netwerk, Aalst, 2011.

Venue: AIR Antwerpen

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