

## OFFICE BAROQUE

### Guy Mees

A central figure of the postwar Belgian avant-garde, Guy Mees (1935-2003) left a body of work whose uniqueness defies all attempts at classification. At the intersection of multiple spheres of influence, including geometric abstraction, informal art, happening, minimalism and conceptualism, Guy Mees' artistic practice is based on an attempt to define painting in the expanded field of media and practices that developed out of modernism.

His largest and most widely known body of work is titled 'Lost Space.' The works from the series consist of thin scraps of coloured paper cut in varying shapes and pinned directly to the wall in vast spatial installations. His preference for shaped paper is continued thru 2003 in the 'Imaginary Ballets', in which cut-out paper skirts and dresses are arranged in choreographies on entire walls. Mees also produced a vast series of watercolours on glassine paper as well as a limited amount of aluminium, lace and plexiglass sculpture.

Much of Mees aesthetics implies a pictorial hors-champ, activating architecture, light as well as the body of the viewer in an open field, leading towards a radical simplification of his media and an increasingly direct confrontation with real space.

Born 1935, Mechelen, Belgium. Died 2003, Antwerp, Belgium.

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 Office Baroque, Brussels, Belgium (forthcoming)  
*The weather is quiet, cool and soft*, Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna, Austria (forthcoming)
- 2017 David Zwirner, London, UK  
*Works 1960-1980*, gb agency, Paris, France  
Micheline Sz wajcer, Antwerp, Belgium  
Galerie Nagel Draxler, Berlin, Germany
- 2016 Galerie Micheline Sz wajcer, Brussels, Belgium  
*Archives*, Bureau des Réalités, Brussels, Belgium
- 2013 Galerie Micheline Sz wajcer, Antwerp, Belgium  
Galerie Chez Valentin, Paris, France
- 2012 *Lost Space*, the Anyspace Gallery, Brussels, Belgium  
*Focus Guy Mees*, Museum M, Leuven, Belgium
- 2010 Galerie Bernard Bouche, Paris, France
- 2007 Galerie Bernard Bouche, Paris, France
- 2002 *Guy Mees, een overzicht*, MuHKA, Antwerp, Belgium  
*Video & films, de collectie - een voorstel*, MuHKA, Antwerp, Belgium
- 2001 STUK, Leuven, Belgium
- 2000 Galerie Micheline Sz wajcer, Antwerp, Belgium
- 1998 Galerie Micheline Sz wajcer, Antwerp, Belgium
- 1996 Galerie Tanya Rumpff, Haarlem, The Netherlands
- 1995 Galerie Micheline Sz wajcer, Antwerp, Belgium
- 1993 Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, Belgium
- 1990 *Edition of four screenprints*, Anny De Decker, Antwerp, Belgium  
Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, Belgium  
Galerie Micheline Sz wajcer, Antwerp, Belgium  
*Works 1960 - 1974*, Galerie van de Academie van Waasmunster, Waasmunster, Belgium

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- 1989 *Guy Mees 1989*, edition by Marc Poirier dit Caulier, Antwerp, Belgium  
Galerie L'A, Liege, Belgium
- 1988 Galerie Micheline Szwajcer, Antwerp, Belgium
- 1985 Galerie Micheline Szwajcer, Antwerp, Belgium
- 1984 Galerie Dam, Middelburg, The Netherlands
- 1983 Vereniging voor het Museum van Hedendagse Kunst Gent, Ghent, Belgium
- 1982 Galerie Micheline Szwajcer, Antwerp, Belgium  
Galerie Michele Lachowsky, Brussels, Belgium
- 1979 Galerie Michele Lachowsky, Brussels, Belgium
- 1977 Galerie Orez Mobile, Den Haag, The Netherlands  
Galerie Nova, Zagreb, Croatia
- 1976 Galerie Paul Lebeer / MTL, Rue de la Vallée, Brussels, Belgium
- 1974 Galerie MTL / Art & Project, Brussels, Belgium
- 1973 Galerie MTL, Brussels, Belgium
- 1971 *Niveaoverschillen*, Galerie X-One, Antwerp, Belgium
- 1970 *Situation II*, X-One Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium  
*Works*, X-One Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium  
Galerie MTL, Brussels, Belgium  
Galerie Plus Kern, Gent, Belgium
- 1969 X-One Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium  
*Richtingsverschijnselen*, Galerie Jeanne Buytaert, Antwerp, Belgium
- 1968 Galerie Orez, Den Haag, The Netherlands  
Galerie Margaretha de Boevé, Assenede, Belgium
- 1966 Galerie Ad Libitum, Antwerp, Belgium
- 1962 Galerie Bernard, Grenchen, Solothurn
- 1960 Galerie Ad Libitum, Antwerp, Belgium

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 *The House of Fame* (curated by Linder), Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham, UK (forthcoming)
- 2016 *B-Last*, Mu.ZEE, Ostend, Belgium  
*The Gap, an exhibition of selected abstract art from Belgium* (curated by Luc Tuymans), MUKHA, Antwerp, Belgium
- 2015 *The Gap, an exhibition of selected abstract art from Belgium* (curated by Luc Tuymans), Parasol Unit, London, UK  
*Happy Birthday Dear Academie*, MAS, Antwerp, Belgium  
*Uit de collectie - Sol LeWitt - Kabinet 6: Ann Veronica Janssens*, SMAK, Ghent, Belgium
- 2012 *Looking back - A video selection from the Argos collection for Contour On Tour: Video art in the Flemish Parliament*, Argos, Brussels, Belgium  
*Spirits Of Internationalism*, MuHKA, Antwerp, Belgium  
*50 days at sea*, Antwerp Pavilion, 9th Shanghai Biennale, Shanghai, China
- 2011 *Guy Mees, deel 2*, Mu.ZEE, Ostend, Belgium  
*Out of Storage: Provisoire & Définitif*, Marres - Centre for Contemporary Culture, Maastricht, The Netherlands
- 2010 *Stanley Brouwn / Francois Curlet / Jef Geys / Guy Mees / Michael Smith / Ann Veronica Janssens / Bernard Frize / Heimo Zobernig / Koenraad Dedobbeleer / Marthe Wéry*, Galerie Micheline Szwajcer, Antwerp, Belgium  
*Micheline chez Mai 36*, Mai 36 Galerie, Zürich, Switzerland  
*Ecce Homo Ludens*, Musée régional d'art contemporain Languedoc-Roussillon, Sérignan, France

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- 2009 *T-Tris : Un « jeu » de construction entre les collections de la Province de Hainaut, du Muhka et du Mudam*, B.P.S.22 - Espace de Création Contemporaine, Charleroi, Belgium  
*A Story of the Image: Old & New Masters From Antwerp*, National Museum of Singapore, Singapore / Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai, China
- 2008 PMMK, Ostend, Belgium  
*Elementaire deeltjes*, COVRA, Vlissingen, The Netherlands
- 2007 7, Roger Raveel Museum, Machelen, Belgium  
*Silent Revolutions*, Expo Tweebronnen, Leuven, Belgium  
*Een verhaal van het beeld / A story of the image*, MuHKA, Antwerp, Belgium
- 2006 *Discontinuous, Drawing lines from and to the work of Guy Mees*, Galerie Micheline Szwajcer, Antwerp, Belgium  
*Silent Revolutions*, Expo Tweebronnen, Leuven, Belgium  
*Mystiek van kleur*, Roger Raveelmuseum, Machelen, Belgium
- 2005 *Monopolis - Antwerpen*, Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art, Rotterdam, The Netherlands  
*Collectiepresentatie XI - zomer 2005, de Zomer van Middelburg*, MuHKA, Antwerp, Belgium
- 2004 *Dear ICC - Aspects of contemporary art in Belgium 1970-1985*, MuHKA, Antwerp, Belgium  
*Papiers divers & Dérivés*, Galerie Nadja Vilenne, Liège, Belgium  
*Dedicated to a Proposition*, Extra City Kunsthall, Antwerp, Belgium  
*Stanley Brouwn / Francois Curlet / Anne Daems / Wim Delvoye / Jef Geys / Carsten Höller / Ann Veronica Janssens / On Kawara / Mark Luyten / Guy Mees / Allen Ruppersberg / Joe Scanlan / Charles-Daniel Schreiber*, Galerie Micheline Szwajcer, Antwerp, Belgium
- 2003 *Collectiepresentatie VI - winter 2003-2004*, MuHKA, Antwerp, Belgium  
*Collectiepresentatie IV - zomer 2003*, MuHKA, Antwerp, Belgium  
*Gelijk het leven is: Belgische kunst uit de collectie van het S.M.A.K.*, S.M.A.K. Ghent, Belgium
- 2002 *Exile on Main Street*, N.I.C.C., Antwerp, Belgium  
*Spring*, Anne Daems, Guy Mees, Gauthier Hubert, Honoré d'o, Orla Barry, Sylvie Macias-Díaz, Ann Veronica Janssens, Suchan Kinoshita, Galerie Nadja Vilenne, Liege, Belgium
- 2001 *Ici & maintenant / Hier & nu*, Ancien Entrepot Royal Tour & Taxis, Brussels, Belgium  
*David Claerbout, Wim Delvoye, Alicia Framis, Bernard Frize, Daan Van Golden, Ann Veronica Janssens, Mark Luyten, Guy Mees, Marthe Wéry, Christopher Wool*, Galerie Micheline Szwajcer, Antwerp, Belgium
- 1999 *Tegenvleug/A rebrousse-poil*, Kunstcentrum Sittard, The Netherlands  
*Trouble spot - painting*, MuHKA, Antwerp, Belgium  
*Anne Daems / J.P. Deridder / Douglas Gordon / Mark Luyten / Guy Mees / Joe Scanlan*, Galerie Micheline Szwajcer, Antwerp, Belgium  
*La consolation*, MAGASIN - Centre National d'art Contemporain de Grenoble, Grenoble, France
- 1998 *Un siècle de collage en Belgique*, Centre de la Gravure et de l'Image imprimée, La Louvière, Belgium
- 1993 *Kunst in België na 1980 / L'art en Belgique depuis 1980*, Musée d'Art Moderne, Brussels, Belgium  
*Betekende Ruimte II. Plaats van handeling*, Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens, Deurle, Belgium

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- 1992 *Corners Filled With What Is Swept Into Corners*, Galerie Micheline Szwajcer, Antwerp, Belgium  
*Harald Klingelhöller / Guy Mees / Richard Prince / Robert Therrien*, Galerie Micheline Szwajcer, Antwerp, Belgium  
*Antwerp invited in The Hague* (with Anselmo, Buren, Graham, Janssens, Luyten, Swennen, Wéry), Galerie Nouvelles Images, Den Haag, The Netherlands
- 1991 *Kunst in Vlaanderen, Nu*, MuHKA, Antwerp, Belgium
- 1989 *Antwerpen-Brussel, Aller retour* (with Lohaus, Somerlinck, Van Snick, Rommens), Bourréstraat 13, Brussels, Belgium
- 1988 *De Verzameling I*, MuHKA, Antwerp, Belgium
- 1987 *Quai du Wault* (with Van Snick, Geys, Lohaus), Lille, Belgium  
*Lieu* (with Haynes, Lohaus, Huyghe, Klenes, Angeli..), Ancienne Linière, Liège, Belgium
- 1986 *Antwerpen - Brussel, Aller Retour* (with Lohaus, Somerlinck, Van Snick, Rommens), Winkelgalerij Torengedouw Schoenmarkt-Eiemarkt, Antwerp, Belgium  
*Initiatif d'Amis Vooruit*, Ghent, Belgium
- 1984 *Video art in Belgium 1970-1977*, SMAK, Ghent, Belgium
- 1982 *Maagdendale* (with Charlier, Dujourie, Geys, Lohaus, Panamarenko, Vercruysse, Vermeiren), Oudenaarde, Belgium
- 1981 *Naar en in het landschap*, ICC, Antwerp, Belgium  
*Kunst in / Als Vraag, van Dada to heden, negatie - integratie*, Provincial Museum voor Moderne Kunst, Lakenhalle, Ieper, Belgium
- 1979 *The sixties - Art in Belgium*, SMAK, Ghent, Belgium  
Vereniging voor het Museum van Hedendaagse Kunst, Ghent, Belgium
- 1977 *Voortzetting van een (de) kunstenaar (5-3) - Voortzetting van een (de) plaats (20-3)* (with Dujourie, Vercruysse), Raapstraat 8, Antwerp, Belgium  
*Magasins & Entrepôts Reunis* (with Charlier, Dujourie, Jozefstein, Lohaus, Van Snick, Vercruysse, Wéry), Antwerp, Belgium  
*Assemblée Ouverte*, 3 September, Noordeterras, Jordaenskaai, Antwerp, Belgium
- 1976 *An exhibition of Belgian Art organised by MTL* (with Broodthaers, Charlier, Geys), Hudson Street, New York, USA
- 1975 *Lange Lozanastraat 185b* (with Charlier, De Boeck, Dujourie, Roquet), Antwerp, Belgium  
*Belgien: Junge Kuenstler I*, Neue Galerie Sammlung Ludwig, Aachen, Germany  
*Fourth International Optic Encounter on Video*, CYAC, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 1974 *Museum of Modern Art*, Oxford, UK  
*The third triennial*, Bruges, Belgium
- 1973 *Belgische Avant-Garde / Avant-Garde Belge*, Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, Belgium
- 1972 *Kunstwerken verworven door de Staat 1970/1971*, Palais des Beaux Arts, Brussels  
*Kunstwerken verworven door de Staat 1970/1971*, Koninklijk Museum voor Schone Kunsten, Antwerp, Belgium
- 1971 *Concepten Celbeton* (curated by Fernand Spillemaeckers and with Desmet, Dujourie, Buren), Dendermonde, Belgium  
X-One Gallery Antwerp, Belgium  
*The second triennial*, Bruges, Belgium  
*Biennale de Paris* (with Jacques Charlier, Bernd Lohaus, Leo Josefstein, Walter Swennen, Panamarenko), Paris, France

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- 1970 *Gevisualiseerde denkprocessen: werken-plannen-projecten-documenten*  
(with Camesi, Raetz, Hemsworth,  
Arnatt), X-One Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium  
*Art by Designers, Design by artists*, Galerie Plus Kern, Ghent  
*Art by Designers, Design by artists*, Interieur 70', Hallen,  
Kotrijk, Belgium
- 1969 *223 m3*, Galerie Plus Kern, Ghent, Belgium
- 1968 *The first triennial*, Bruges, Belgium
- 1967 *Facetten van de jonge Vlaamse kunst 3 - objecten en constructieve kunst*, Provinciaal Begijnhof Hasselt/  
Koninklijke Academie Antwerpen/ Sint Pietersabdij, Ghent, Belgium  
*Wide White Space*, Antwerp, Belgium
- 1966 *Microzero*, Galerie De Bezige Bij, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 1965 *Zero Avantgarde*, Atelier Fontana, Milano, Italy  
*Nouvelles Tendances Flamandes*, Musée Rath, Genève, Switzerland
- 1963 *Forum 63*, Sint-Pietersabdij, Ghent, Belgium  
*Europäische Avantgarde*, Schwanhalle, Frankfurt am Main, Germany  
*Profile II Belgische Kunst Heute*, Städtische Kunstgalerie Bochum,  
Bochum, Germany
- 1962 *Forum 62*, Sint-Pietersabdij, Ghent, Belgium
- 1961 *Forum 61*, Sint-Pietersabdij, Ghent, Belgium
- 1960 *De Nieuwe Vlaamse School*, CAW, Antwerp, Belgium
- 1959 *Nuove Tendenze Belgi* (with Dries, Gentils, Van Anderlecht,  
Vandenbranden, Verheyen, Verstockt, Van  
Severen), Galleria Pagani del Grattacielo, Milano, Italy

## PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium, Brussels, Belgium  
MuHKA, Antwerp, Belgium  
Mu.ZEE, Ostend, Belgium  
M-Museum, Leuven, Belgium  
Frac Nord-Pas de Calais, Dunkerque, France