LEVEY利維郭KWOK

RIA VERHAEGHE (b. 1950, Belgium)

Ria Verhaeghe lives and works in Bruges, Belgium.

For the past three decades, Verhaeghe has collected images from international newspapers, and cataloged them in an image bank which now contains over 60,000 entries. This ongoing database encompasses an enormous range of subjects, and is articulated around three idiosyncratic themes: ”Fusion”, which groups images by symbolic qualities (strangeness, beauty); “Mindwave”, which gathers images by formal visual qualities (texture, geometry); “Human Interest”, which encompasses moments charged which human emotion (acts of bravery, expressions of grief, people who have died).

These categories often overlap, as they capture fragments of a complex reality in constant motion. Verhaeghe is interested in how we build our understanding of the world from these glimpses, circulated through mass media; for the majority of her practice, this meant print journalism, where lived experiences of the globe are flattened onto newsprint and scattered. Each newspaper contains empirical, historical information on the daily events of its time; it also forms part of a bigger picture, of shifting cultural languages and evolving technologies. By offering subjective pathways through her enormous archive, Verhaeghe invites the viewer to experience the images not only as information to be processed, but as windows into a world to be sensed, felt, as it once was by the creator(s) and/or subject(s) of the image.

This archive is a life’s work in itself, but it is also the “matrix” for other pieces: Verhaeghe transforms some of the found images through various mediums including painting, embroidery, sculpture, and video, reflecting her sensitive approach to stories which, as they enter the realm of mass media, are often emptied of their emotion. In this way, her practice expresses a sense of empathy for the material world, resisting its disappearance as it becomes ever more disembodied and fractured.

Though Verhaeghe obtained a visual arts degree at the Royal Academy of Kortrijk in 1978, she began her career as a nurse, working in a hospital for some years before devoting herself fulltime to raising her children. During this period, she began developing the threads of care, patience, observation that would follow her throughout her practice. Verhaeghe’s work has been the subject of solo and duo exhibitions including at Be-Part (Waregem, BE); Museum voor Schone Kunsten (Ghent, BE); Galerie C. De Vos (Aalst, BE); Fundació Antoni Tàpies (Barcelona, ES); FOMU – Photo Museum Antwerp (BE); and Huis van Herman Teirlinck (Beersel, BE). Her work has been included in group exhibitions at institutions such as the National Bank of Belgium (Brussels, BE); Museum Dr. Guislain (Ghent, BE); Kunstenfestivaldesarts (Brussels, BE); Cultuurcentrum Brugge (BE); the 5th Biennale of Moscow (RU); the 18th Biennale of Sydney (AU); the Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin (FR/DE); and many more. Her first monograph, *Provisoria*, was published by Art Paper Editions in 2025; it includes texts by Barbara De Coninck and by Philippe Van Cauteren, the director of S.M.A.K - Municipal Museum of Contemporary Art (Ghent, BE).

www.riaverhaeghe.be
www.provisoria.net

RIA VERHAEGHE

(b. 1950, Belgium) lives and works in Bruges, Belgium

EDUCATION

1984 - 1989
BA, Music History, Stedelijk Conservatorium Brugge, BE

1973 - 1978
BA, Visual Arts, Koninklijke Academie voor Schone Kunsten, Kortrijk, BE

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2023
Panta Rhei, Spiegelrei, Be-Part, Waregem, BE

2017 - 2022
Verticals, curated by Catherine de Zegher, Museum voor Schone Kunsten, Ghent, BE

2013
Dismembered newspapers, Galerie C. De Vos, Aalst, BE

2010
Alma Matrix, Bracha L. Ettinger and Ria Verhaeghe, curated by Catherine de Zegher, Fundació Antoni Tàpies, Barcelona, ES

2009
Glenden III, Galerie C. De Vos, Aalst, BE

2008
Glenden II, curated by Catherine de Zegher, Kortrijk, BE
Provisoria, curated by Christophe Ruys, FOMU – Photo Museum Antwerp, BE

2004
Paradiscom, Galerie De Witte Beer, Bruges, BE

2002
Expectant Town III, Galerie C. De Vos, Aalst, BE
Expectant Town II, Galerie De Witte Beer, Bruges, BE

2001
Expectant Town I, Herman Teirlinckhuis, Beersel, BE

1999
Fourche, Galerie De Witte Beer, Bruges, BE
R.V.W.H., Galerie Clo Bostoen, Marke, BE

1998
Kunstenaar te gast, Cultuurcentrum Hasselt, BE
Emballage, Galerie C. De Vos, Aalst, BE

1997
Glenden, Galerie Clo Boston, Kortrijk, BE

1992
Niettegenstaande de tijd, Gele Zaal, Ghent, BE

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026
Wet Conceptualism, Levey Kwok, Brussels, BE

2024
SANT2024, Cultuurcentrum Bruges, BE

2022
(un)common values, National Bank of Belgium, Brussel, Belgium.

2020
PantaRhei – Spiegelrei, in collaboration with Jasper Rigole, Museum Dr Guislain, Ghent, BE

2019
Watou, curated by Jan Moeyaert, Kunstenfestivaldesarts, Brussels, BE
Elective Affinities 5, in collaboration with Jasper Rigole National Archives of Bruges, BE
Saudade, Kunstenfestivaldesarts, Watou, BE

2018
TRANSFORMATION, the oeuvre of 4 sculptors, Gallery 44, Bruges, BE
Provisoria, curated by Pierre Muylle, Bruges, BE
1975, A selection of artworks by Stefaan De Clerck and Mine De Jaegere, curated by Filip Luyckx, Library of the Faculty of Law KU, Leuven, BE

2017
Dreamcatching, Residency at VTI Waregem, in collaboration with Be-Part Waregem, BE

2016
In love with beauty, curated by Claus Verscheure, Transfo Zwevegem, Zwevegem, BE

2015
Penelopefries, Penitentiary Complex, Bruges, BE

2014
Kunstenaar in de kijker, Kunst in Huis, Ghent, BE

2013
More light, curated by Catherine de Zegher, 5th Biennale of Moscow, RU

2012
All our relations, curated by Catherine de Zegher and Gerald McMaster, 18th Biennale of Sydney, Cockatoo Island, Sydney, AU

2009
Berceuse, International Fest of Cinema and Technology, Los Angeles, US

2008
Ware liefde, De Markten, Brussels, BE

2007
Coloratura, curated by Catharina De Vos, Cultuurcentrum de Werft, Geel, BE

2005
Verfraaiing - 12 works from the provincial art collection and 12 creations, Bruges, BE
Poisonous, curated by Catharina De Vos, De Marktel, Brussels, BE

2004
Sproken, guest of Josse De Pauw, Bruges, BE
Provisoria, organized by Kunst in Huis, Stedelijk Museum Vander Kelen-Mertens, Leuven, BE
Eclips, curated by Stef Van Bellingen, Willebroek, BE

2003
L'eau s'écrit, Museum voor Schone Kunsten, Ghent, BE
Pink Perfection, curated by Edith Doove, Cultuurhuis Belgica Dendermonde, BE
Tapijtreiniging met dieptewerking Oud, Hospitaal Aalst, Galerie C. De Vos & Luk Lambrecht, Aalst, BE
Golem, Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin, FR/DE

2002
Eva, Venus, Madonna, curated by Joannes Késenne, Maasmechelen, BE
Kunstgrepen, Middelkerke, BE
Golem, Courtisane, kortfilmfestival Ghent, BE

2001
Spiegel van het verlangen, South-West Flanders, Kortrijk, BE
SCREEN installation, workshop with the psychiatric centre of Sleidinge, BE
Raamwerk, Oostende, BE.
Trappen en Fourche, Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin, FR/DE
Touch me, De Spil Cultuurcentrum, Roeselare, BE

2000
Tijd, Cultuurhuis de Warande, Turnhout, BE
Rapports entre ça et ça, II CAL, Charleroi, BE

1999
Trappen en Fourche, ARGOS centre for audiovisual arts, Beursschouwburg, Brussels, BE
Overbruggen, Klein-Willebroek and Boom, BE

1998
Inside Outside, Maidstone Library, Maidstone, UK.

1997
De ongezochte vondst, project with children, Odapark, Venray, NL
Maskers, Galerie De Witte Beer, Sint-Andries, BE

1996
Royal baby, project with middle school and school for the blind, Bruges, BE
Side track. Art on trains, moving exhibition curated by Michel Dewilde, exhibition in Belgium train stations.

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Contemporary Art Collection, National Bank of Belgium, Brussels, BE
East Flanders Art Collection, BE

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Monograph

- Giorgia Basch, Barbara De Coninck, Zoë Gray, Philippe Van Cauteren, *Provisoria*, Art Paper Editions, 2025

Books and Catalogues

- *Ria Verhaeghe: Catalogue*, text by Catherine de Zegher, exh. cat. Richard Saltoun Gallery, 2023
- *Women's Work is Never Done*, text by Catherine de Zegher, AsaMER Design Studio, 2014
- More Light for a Different Space and Time, text by Catherine de Zegher, exh. cat. for the 5th Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art, 2013
- *All our relations*, text by Catherine de Zegher & Gerald Mac Master, exh. cat. for the 18th Biennale of Sydney, 2012
- *Alma Matrix. Bracha L. Ettinger i Ria Verhaeghe,* exh. cat. Fundació Antoni Tàpies, 2010

Articles

- Barbara De Coninck, "Ria Verhaeghe: Count Your Blessings", *Cultuurcentrum Brugge*, 21 March 2024
- Filip Luyckx, "Visual Poetry", *Sint Lukas Galerie*, 15 April 2020
- Jan Braet, "Artroze", *Knack*, 29 November 2017 Collections
- Juan Vicente Aliaga, "Bracha Ettinger and Ria Verhaeghe", Artforum, September 2010
- Joana Maso, "El Poder de la Palinomia", *La Vanguardia*, June 2010
- Daan Rau, "Beelden van verpakking, Ria Verhaeghe verzamelt om de wereld te vatten", *Openbaar Kunstbezit Vlaanderen*, 2007
- Inge Henneman, "De doden tellen niet." Het persoonlijk persarchief van Ria Verhaeghe.", *Fotomuseummagazine 33*, 10 October 2005
- Jaak Fontier, "Ria Verhaeghe verbindt engagement mit experiment", *Kreatief jaargang*, 28 December 1994