EMMANUEL VAN DER AUWERA (b. 1982, Belgium)

Emmanuel Van der Auwera lives and works in Brussels, Belgium.

Whether through filmmaking, VideoSculpture, theater, printmaking, or other media, Emmanuel Van der Auwera takes us straight to the core of the image, questioning our visual literacy: How do images of contemporary mass media operate on various publics and to what end? How do existing codes and conventions shape the framing of events and their entry in our collective memory? While bringing us no closer to a monolithic truth, Van der Auwera constructs new paradigms for reading images and understanding our relationships with them. His fascination with the deconstruction of the technologies of seeing stems from his investigations into the ethics of the gaze. A turning point in his practice, in 2012, he started to make works that responded to what he saw as 'a shift in paradigm' fuelled by the growth of social media, and to interrogate the relationship between the currency of the image and the 'currency of emotions within the image'. In this new visual economy, the spectator has also become the spectacle, trading on the authenticity of their experience and our sublime fascination with things that terrify, disgust or enrapture us. His process of creating an engaging visual experience that pulls the viewer out of their passivity, demonstrates the risk of further transforming reality into a simulation. Following Susan Sontag, these representations are a means of making 'real' (or 'more real') matters that the privileged and the merely safe might prefer to ignore. Van der Auwera's work reflects upon these chains of production and consumption, and the responsibility inherent in the act of seeing.

Van der Auwera is a 2015 laureate of the Higher Institute for Fine Arts (HISK) post-academic course in Ghent (BE), a 2015 Langui Award recipient of the Young Belgian Art Prize, and the first winner of the Goldwasserschenking awarded by the WIELS Contemporary Art Centre and the Belgian Royal Museums of Fine Arts (BE). His work has been the subject of solo exhibitions at institutions including HEK - Haus der Elektronischen Künste (Basel, CH); Photoforum Pasquart (Biel, CH); IKOB - Museum of Contemporary Art (Eupen, BE); Le Botanique (Brussels, BE); CAP - Centre d'Art Contemporain de Saint Fons (Lyon, FR). Van der Auwera has participated in group exhibitions at the Palais de Tokyo (Paris, FR); Pinakothek der Moderne (Munich, DE); KW Institute for Contemporary Art (Berlin, DE); WIELS Contemporary Art Centre (Brussels, BE); Kunsthal Charlottenborg (Copenhagen, DK); Deichtorhallen Hamburg (Hamburg, DE); Galerie Rudolfinum (Prague, CK); 8th Yokohama Triennale (Yokohama, JP); Centre Wallonie-Bruxelles (Paris, FR); Kunsthalle Wien (Vienna, AT); Jeu de Paume (Paris, FR); and many others.

His work has been acquired by the MAC's - The Wallonia-Brussels Federation Museum of Contemporary Arts (Grand-Hornu, BE); ARGOS centre for audiovisual arts (Brussels, BE); Musée d'Ixelles (Brussels, BE); Mu.ZEE (Ostend, BE); Collection de la Province de Hainaut - BPS 22 (Charleroi, BE); KANAL - Centre Pompidou (Brussels, BE); KADIST (Paris, FR); the Stockholm School of Economics (Stockholm, SE); the Art Vontobel Collection (Zurich, CH); the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art (Eugene, US); and Dallas Museum of Art (Dallas, US). In 2020, Yale University Press & Mercator Fonds published a monograph dedicated to his work.

https://hl-projects.com/artists/29-emmanuel-van-der-auwera/

EMMANUEL VAN DER AUWERA

(b. 1982, Belgium) lives and works in Brussels, Belgium

EDUCATION

2013 - 2015
Advanced Studies & Practice-based Research in Visual Arts, HISK, Ghent, BE

2008 - 2010
Post-graduate in Arts and Audiovisual Research, Le Fresnoy - Studio National des Arts Contemporains, Tourcoing, FR

2005 - 2008
DNSEP (Diplôme National Supérieur d'Expression Plastique), École des Beaux-Arts de Clermont-Ferrand, Clermont-Ferrand, FR

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2029
MAC's - The Wallonia-Brussels Federation Museum of Contemporary Arts, Grand Hornu, BE (Upcoming)

2027
Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens, Sint-Martens-Latem, BE (Upcoming)
Dallas Contemporary, Dallas, US (Upcoming)
JUGGERNAUT, BPS22 - The museum of art of the Hainaut Province, Charleroi, BE

2025
Saturn, CAP - Centre d'art contemporain de Saint-Fons, Lyon, FR

2023
A Thousand Pictures of Nothing, Harlan Levey Projects, Brussels, BE

2022
Emmanuel Van der Auwera: Seeing is Revealing, HEK (Haus der Elektronischen Künste), Basel, CH
FULL A.L.I.C.E., Photoforum Pasquart, Biel, CH
Fire and Forget, Edel Assanti, London, UK

2021
Preludes: Emmanuel Van der Auwera, Edel Assanti, London, UK

2019
The Death of K9-CIGO, Harlan Levey Projects, Brussels, BE
The Sky is on Fire, Botanique, Brussels, BE
White Noise, 214 Projects, Dallas, US

2018
Black Box: Emmanuel Van der Auwera, Casino Luxembourg – Forum d'Art Contemporain, LU
Blue Water White Death, Mu.ZEE, Ostend, BE
Shudder, GLUON Foundation, Brussels, BE

2017
Everything Now is Measured by After, Harlan Levey Projects, Brussels, BE

2015
Techno City, Art Brussels, Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, Brussels, BE

2013
TEOTWAWKI, Biennale Jeune Création, Watch This Space 7, La Galerie Commune, Tourcoing, FR
Monographie Arts 10+3, La Médiatine, Brussels, BE
O Superman, ISELP, Brussels, BE
O Superman, IKOB - Museum of Contemporary Art, Eupen, BE
Cave / Construction / Ruin, WIELS, Brussels, BE

2012
Science Goes Art, Fondation Roche, Basel, CH

2011
Bring us to ourselves, Mikhaïl, Module 2, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, FR

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2027
Deep Fake – AI and the Female Body, FOMU – Photo Museum Antwerp, BE

2026
Shifting Worlds, FTI Festival at WIELS Contemporary Art Centre, Brussels, BE
Transparences liquides, Contretype, Brussels, BE
Un équilibre temporaire, MAC's - The Wallonia-Brussels Federation Museum of Contemporary Arts, Grand Hornu, BE
Do Our Chimeras Most Resemble Us?, KADIST & Centre Pompidou, online
Life After Microsoft, curated by Martin Germann, North Rhine-Westphalian Academy of Sciences, Humanities, and the Arts, Dusseldorf, DE
Transparences Liquides, Centre Photographique d'Île-de-France, Pontault-Combault, FR
The World Through AI, SESC 24 de Maio, São Paulo, BR
Chambre d'Amis (Dallas), Park House, Dallas, US

2025
Meridians Sector, curated by Yasmil Raymond, Art Basel Miami Beach, US
The World Through AI, SESC, Campinas, BR
(In)Visibility of Violence, Kunsthalle Giessen, Giessen, DE
Vienna Digital Cultures 2025, Kunsthalle Wien Karlsplatz, Vienna, AT
Poetics of Encryption, Galerie Rudolfinum, Prague, CZ
Salle 54 - Acquisitions Récentes, Musées Royaux des Beaux-Arts de Belgique, Brussels, BE
The Gospel, Harlan Levey Projects, Brussels, BE
Tipping Point, La Friche Belle de Mai, Marseille, FR
Each Place its Own Mind, Edel Assanti, London, UK
25 Arts Seconde: Soluble et Simulacrum, Centre Wallonie-Bruxelles, Paris, FR

2024
Poetics of Encryption, Kunsthal Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, DK
8th Yokohama Triennale, Yokohama Museum of Art, Yokohama, JP
Poetics of Encryption, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, DE
BIM24 - Biennale de l'Image en Mouvement, Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève, Geneva, CH

In and Out of Place. Land after Information 1992 - 2024, Kunstverein in Hamburg, Hamburg, DE
Survival in the 21st Century, Deichtorhallen Hamburg, DE
Reflections, Art Basel press showcase, Basel, CH
Safra'Numériques Festival 2024, Amiens, FR
Reproducibility, Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Antwerp, BE

2023
This Is Us, Z33 - House for Contemporary Art, Design & Architecture, Hasselt, BE
En regard, le Delta, Namur, BE
Némo - Biennale internationale des arts numériques de la Région île-de- France (5th edition), Le CENTQUATRE Paris, FR
Capture #2, Le Pavillon, Namur, BE

2022
(UN)COMMON VALUES. Two Corporate Collections of Contemporary Art, National Bank of Belgium and the Deutsche Bundesbank's art collections, Brussels, BE
VIVRE SANS TÉMOIN, Biennale des Imaginaires Numériques, Fondation Vasarely, Aix-en-Provence, FR
The Dog Show, SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, US
A Place for the Affections: Dwelling in Anguish (Torment) and Love, Harlan Levey Projects, Brussels, BE
Teen Spirit, BPS22 Musée d'art de la Province de Hainaut, Charleroi, BE

2021
Biennale de l'Image Tangible, Atelier Basfroi, Paris, FR
Biennale Némo, Le CENTQUATRE, Paris, FR
From Creatures to Creators, Kunsthaus Hamburg, DE
DIFFERENCES: HISK Alumni Exhibition, Gosset site, Brussels, BE
PARADOXICAL OBJECTS - Video Sculpture Art From 1968 To Today, peer to space, online exhibition
Grote Prijs Ernest Albert, De Garage, Mechelen, BE

2020
Power of Harmony: First Jinan International Biennale, Shandong Art Museum, Shandong, CN
Photography Today - Resistant Faces, Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich, DE
Be Modern: From Klee to Tuymans, the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium, Brussels, BE
La Colère de Ludd, BPS22, Charleroi, BE
20th International Biennale: 'Les Petits Formats Numériques', Nismes, Liège, Sint-Niklaas, BE
SIGNAL_Espace(s) Réciproque(s), Friche la Belle de Mai, Marseille, FR

2019
Open Skies, WIELS, Brussels, BE
We are the people. Who are you?, Edel Assanti, London, UK

2018
Resistance, CENTRALE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART, Brussels, BE
Kanal Brut (a Prefigurative Year), KANAL - Centre Pompidou, Brussels, BE
It is difficult / To get the news from poems / Yet men die miserably every day / For lack / Of what they found there, Sofie Van de Velde Gallery, Antwerp, BE
Black Box Series, ARGOS, Brussels, BE
Dogs of the newfoundland, Albert Baronian, Brussels, BE

2017
Ecce Homo, Geukens & De Vil, Antwerp, BE
Angst, Museum Dr. Guislain, Ghent, BE
Directing the Real: Artists' Films and Video in the 2010s, Palazzo Medici Riccardi, Florence, IT
Private Choices, CENTRALE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART, Brussels, BE
Ars Electronica, Linz, AT

La piel del mundo, Galería José de la Fuente, Cantabria, ES
Hotel Vilnius, Vilnius, LT
WIELS 10th Anniversary / Kunstenfestivaldesarts, Brussels, BE
L'implosion politique du corps, Cabinet Psy, Paris, FR
MAART Kunstroute, CC De Shakel, Waregem, BE
Wrong Parallels, Galerie Jeune Création, Paris, FR

2016
IMPRINTS, Harlan Levey Projects, Brussels, BE
VISIO - Outside the black box, European Programme on Artists' Moving Images/ Lo Schermo Dell'arte Film Festival, Florence, IT
The End of the World, Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea Luigi Pecci, Prato, IT
Indiscipline (WIELS Programme), Palais de Tokyo, Paris, FR
Hors Pistes - 11th edition, Centre Pompidou, Paris, FR
Multiplier, Frans Masereel Centrum, Kasterlee, BE
BIP - Biennale de l'Image Possible, Liège, BE
A Prisoners Cinema, Iselp, Brussels, BE
Riddle of the Burial Ground, Extra City Kunsthal, Antwerp, BE
Tous Belges, Centre d'Art Contemporain, Meymac, Abbaye Saint André, FR
Now Belgium Now, LLS 387, Antwerp, BE
KIKK Festival, Namur, BE
One More Take, Abtenhuis, Geraadsbergen, BE
Techno City, Point Culture, Brussels, BE
Do You Speak Synergy?, Harlan Levey Projects, Brussels, BE
Working Title Situation #04, Workspacebrussels, Brussels, BE
Les Papillons de Mai, Galerie V2, Le Vecteur, Charleroi, BE
The act of staring at the sun, Zwart Wild, Ghent, BE
Festival Kicks, BPS22: 'A Certain Amount of Clarity', Charleroi, BE
De loin aussi d'ici, Galerie Marion de Cannière, Antwerp, BE
De Nieuwe Omstandigheden, Croxhapox, Ghent, BE

2015
HISK Final Show, Ghent, BE
And It Doesn't Matter if the Phone Rings, Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art-Special Program, Moscow, RU
Performance in 2m3, Brussels, BE
Etcetera III, SMAK, Ghent, BE
Perceptive, Plagiarama, Brussels, BE
ETE 78, Brussels, BE
Young Belgian Art Prize, Bozar, Brussels, BE
Shifting Ground, collaboration with Thomas Depas, CLOVIS XV, Brussels, BE
First Without Words, collaboration with Olivier Dekegel, ISELP, Brussels, BE
The theater of Oklahoma (screening), Les Ateliers Vortex, Dijon, FR
HISK Open Studios, Ghent, BE
TRAFIC, Home Cinéma, Lausanne, CH
Family Matters, De La Charge, Brussels, BE
Soirée Pan / Found Pixel, La Panacée, Montpelier, FR
Need, private office, Paris, FR

2014
Limited Access, International Festival of Moving Images, Tehran, IR
La Force du Changement, Hotel Charleroi, Charleroi, BE
Fallen From Grace, in collaboration with Klaas Vanhee and Egon Van Herreweghe, Broelmuseum, Kortrijk, BE

31st Kassel Documentary Film and Video Festival: 'a Certain Amount of Clarity', Kassel, DE
Prix Du Hainaut des Arts Plastiques, Ath, BE
18th JIHLAVA IDFF: 'a Certain Amount of Clarity', Competition Section Short Joy, CZ
Men With Broken Hearts, De La Charge, Brussels, BE
HISK Open Studios, Ghent, BE
Screenings, carte blanche à Michigan films, Théâtre De Poche, Brussels, BE
Fata Morgana, IKOB - Museum of Contemporary Art, Eupen, BE

2013
Bring us to ourselves, Mikhaïl (WIELS programme), Galeries Cinéma, Brussels, BE
Cinéma 104, La Citadelle, the Theatre of Oklahoma, Pantin, FR
TRAFIC, Home Cinema, Lausanne, CH

2012
Zinebi 54, Bilbao, ES
KUNSTVLAAI Festival of Independents, the Theatre of Oklahoma, Red Shoes programme, Amsterdam, NL
Nuit Blanche, the Theatre of Oklahoma, Brussels, BE
Ville en Abîme, Hôtel Charleroi, Charleroi, BE
Prix Médiatine, Brussels, BE
L'Europe des esprits ou la fascination de l'occulte 1750-1950, L'Aubette 1928, Strasbourg, FR

2011
All Hell Broke Loose, Ancienne Bibliothèque Municipale, Tournai, BE
Made in Choi, Atelier Choi, Paris, FR
Bird's eye view of..., The Museum of Fine Arts, Charleroi, BE
To hug a snake, Les Subsistances, Lyon, FR
56ème Salon de Montrouge, La Fabrique, Montrouge, FR
ABC Art Belge Contemporain, Fondation Culture et Développement, Sofia, BG
Jeune Artiste La Libre, La Libre Belgique, BE
La Biennale d'Art Contemporain de Cahors, FR
Festival L'Ososphère, Strasbourg, FR
Les Instants Vidéo, Marseille, FR
Theatron Open-Air-Festival, Olympiaparc, Munich, DE
Festival Regard sur le Court Métrage au Saguenay, Québec, CA

2010
ABC Exhibition of Belgian Contemporary Art, Le Fresnoy, Tourcoing, FR
Festival les Urbaines, Lausanne, CH
Kassel Documentary Film and Video Festival, Kassel, DE
Soft Machine - Panorama 12, Le Fresnoy, Tourcoing, FR
Up-and-coming Festival, Hanover, DE
FIIE, Paris, FR
Soirée Flare, Musee Fabre, Montpelier, FR
Lille 3000, Gare Saint-Sauveur, Lille, FR

2009
Festival International du Court Métrage de Clermont-Ferrand, FR
Étrange Festival, Paris, FR
Les Enfants du Sabbat 10, Centre d'Art Contemporain du Creux de l'Enfer, Thiers, FR
Tout est si simple, La Tôlerie and Galerie in Extenso, Clermont-Ferrand, FR
Un Archipel d'expériences - Panorama 11, Le Fresnoy, Tourcoing, FR

2008
Première, Abbaye Saint-André – Centre d'Art Contemporain, Meymac, FR
Brèves Digitales Festival International du Court Métrage de Clermont Ferrand, Clermont-Ferrand, FR
Festival Vidéoformes, Clermont-Ferrand, FR

PERFORMANCES

2026
Can You Make a Hurricane?, Kunstenfestivaldesarts, Les Halles de Schaerbeek, Brussels, BE

2016
Central Alberta, Campo, Ghent, BE

2015
Central Alberta, Galeries Cinéma, Brussels, BE

AWARDS, COMMISSIONS, GRANTS & RESIDENCIES

2024
Best Documentary Prize, 14th International Short Film Festival of Cyprus, Cyprus, CY
Special Mention for Artistic Achievement, Vienna Shorts Film Festival, Vienna, AT
FCAC (Fonds cantonal d'art contemporain Genève) and Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève- Mire programme, BIM'24, Geneva, CH

2020
Mindspaces Residency, initiative by the European Commission's Science Technology and Arts

2019
Otazu Art Prize, Fundación Otazu, Pamplona, ES
Goldwasserschenking, Fondation Goldwasser, BE

2017
Artist Residency, Brain & Emotion Laboratory, GLUON, Maastricht, NL

2016
Artist Residency, VISIO - European Programme on Artist Moving Images, Florence, IT

2015
LANGUI Prize, Young Belgian Art Prize, BE
Artist Residency, HISK, Ghent, BE
Artist Residency, Fondatione Aurelio Petroni, IT

2013
Artist Residency, ISELP, Brussels, BE

2012
Artist Residency, WIELS, Brussels, BE
Artist Residency, HOTEL CHARLEROI, Charleroi, BE
Image mouvement Prize, CNAP, FR
Prix Médiatine, BE

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

MACS - The Wallonia-Brussels Federation Museum of Contemporary Arts, Mons, BE
KANAL - Centre Pompidou, Brussels, BE
Mu.zee, Ostend, BE
Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium, Brussels, BE
BPS22 - Collection de la Province de Hainaut), Charleroi, BE
National Bank of Belgium - International Association of Corporate Collections of Contemporary Art (IACCCA), Brussels, BE
Musée d'Ixelles, Brussels, BE
ARGOS (centre for audiovisual arts), Brussels, BE
Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, US
Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, Eugene, US
Collection Fundación Otazu, Pamplona, ES
KADIST, Paris, FR
The Stockholm Schools of Economics, Stockholm, SE
The Art Vontobel Collection, Zurich, CH
FCAC Le Fonds cantonal d'art contemporain, Geneva, CH

SELECTED LECTURES AND TALKS

2026
Chambre d'Amis II (Dallas), conversation with Lucia Simek (Executive Director, Dallas Contemporary), held at the Augustus Owen Foundation, Dallas, US
Transparences Liquides, conversation with Audrey Illouz, Centre Photographique d'Île-de-France, Pontault-Combault, FR

2025
Conference at the École Nationale Supérieure des beaux-arts de Lyon, FR
Artist talk: Emmanuel Van der Auwera, conversation with Lucia Simek, Dallas Contemporary
AI, Cinema & Post-Truth, artist talk by Emmanuel Van der Auwera, Vienna Digital Cultures, Kunsthalle Wien Karlsplatz, Vienna, AT
Innovation meets creation at the crossroads of art and technology, Shoreditch Arts Club, London, UK

2024
Viral Hallucinations, a symposium at Haus der Photographie, Deichtorhallen Hamburg, DE
OPENING DIALOGUES I: Memory, History, Forgetting, conversation moderated by Nora N. Khan & Andrea Bellini. With: Jenna Sutela, Lauren McCarthy, Shuang Li, and Emmanuel van der Auwera
Techno/Seen: on the technological apparatus and its images, a symposium at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Antwerp, BE

2023
Art talk: Emmanuel Van der Auwera, conversation with Gitte Ørskou, Stockholm School of Economics, Stockholm, SE

2022
Fondation Kanal – Artist Talk, Kanal Centre Pompidou, Brussels, BE
Images Secondes, Post-cinéma. Pratiques de recherche et de création, online conversation with Alice Lenay, Jason Middleton
Fire and Forget, conversation with Maitreyi Maheshwari, Edel Assanti, UK

2021
The 14th international Computers, Privacy, and Data Protection (CPDP) conference, *Enforcing Rights in a Changing World*, conversation with Emmanuel Van der Auwera and Rocco Bellanova, Brussels, BE

2020
Nasher Price Dialogues: Disembodied Intimacy: Digitally Communicating Art, Caregiving, and Sex, online conversation moderated by Randy Kennedy & Alice Rawsthorn. With Mika Rottenberg, Jacolby Satterwhite, JiaJia Fei and Emmanuel Van der Auwera

2019
Artist talk in conversation with Caroline Dumalin, Le Botanique, Brussels, BE

SELECTED SCREENINGS

2026
In the Flow 4, with Goethe Institute Thailand, Bangkok International Film Festival 2026, TH
KFFK / Cologne Short Film Festival, Cologne, DE
Un État du Monde, Forum des Images, Paris, FR

2025
Carpenter Center, Harvard University, Cambridge, US
29th Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur, CH
Tirana International Film Festival, Tirana, AL
Unknown Waters, Floating Cinema 6th edition, Venice, IT
Le Monde Selon l'IA, Jeu de Paume, Paris, FR
Magical Realism: argos collection selects, ARGOS, Brussels, BE

2024
Courtisane festival 2024, Ghent, BE
Rencontres Internationales Loods6/Amsterdam, Amsterdam, NL
Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin, Paris, FR
16th World Film Festival, Bangkok, TH
14th International Short Film Festival, Cyprus, CY
Valladolid International Film Festival, Valladolid, ES
Vienna Shorts Film Festival, Vienna, AT

2020
Nasher Sculpture Center, Texas Theatre, Dallas, US

2018
ARGOS Center for Art and Media, Brussels, BE
Casino Luxembourg - Forum d'art contemporain, LU

Monograph:

- Levey, Harlan and Amanda Saroff, "Emmanuel Van der Auwera: A Certain Amount of Clarity", Mercatorfonds, Yale University Press, 2020