



## Dr. HUGO HEYRMAN *Why, What, When & Where is an Image?*

November 2021- January 2022

An extensive solo exhibition of Dr. Hugo Heyrman recent works, together with a book '*Why, What, When & Where is an Image?*' will be launched at Gallery De Zwarte Panter, Antwerp.

### Intro

The oeuvre of Dr. Hugo Heyrman, from the first series *Streetlife Cycle - To Perceive the Perception* (1975) ... *A Vision is Finer Than a View* (1986) ... *City Life & Body Language I & II* (2006-2008) ... *The Double Life of Images* (2019) till the recent, *Why, What, When & Where is an Image?* (2021) makes a statement about the poetics of painting and the evocative power of thought-images. Heyrman gives paintings a pictorial life — a cinematic, enigmatic new dimension — in which reality, imagination and memory meet.

They are imaginary '*atmospheres of change*', as resistance to the logic of a linear, chronological form of time. His attitude is informal, relying on intuition, alternately reflective and playful. In the layered images we see a 'dancing' state of mind — shifts of meaning between material images (photo, film, TV, Internet) and thought-images (reality, imagination, memory). In painting as in life the meaning is the use.

For Heyrman the enigma of 'reality' is the visible, not the invisible. As a painter he makes the unknown visible in the known, with the intention of breaking through underlying thinking and behavioural patterns. Motivated by the idea that a single moment of insight can flood a whole life with meaning. It opens up unknown perspectives that are only possible with the (prehistoric) medium of painting.

His driving force is the factor X of atmosphere, space and time, the mysterious everydayness, the pictorial structure of images and the practice of painting as a process. The images disrupt our accustomed interpretations, as an arena in which questions about perception, images and truth are tested. They feed the imagination. Heyrman paints the interrelations between an inner and outer world — inventive spaces where images are transformed into the '*cinematic reality*' of a '*poetic imagination*'.

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