



H A R L A N L E V E Y P R O J E C T S

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, organized by Verhaeghe's idiosyncratic system which is articulated around three 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 with human emotion (acts of bravery, expressions of grief, people who have died).

These categories often overlap, as they reach towards a reality in constant motion. Verhaeghe has long recognized that our understanding of the world is largely constructed by the images of mass media; for the majority of her practice, this meant print journalism, where daily, lived experiences throughout the globe are flattened onto newsprint. These surfaces contain empirical, historical information, but they also trace the shifting language of our culture and the technologies through which it speaks. 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 glimpses 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.

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**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



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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, Il 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
Masks, 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