



gaasbeek  
castle

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## EXPO PRESS RELEASE

# THE ARTIST/KNIGHT

11 July - 5 November 2017



**Knights appeal to everyone's imagination. What does this iconic symbol stand for? Do the knightly codes and values still have meaning today? Curator Joanna De Vos investigated and now creates in Gaasbeek Castle an international group exhibition of modern artistry as a 'legacy' of knightly ideals.**

The artworks, including drawings, paintings, photographs, sculptures, installations and (performance) films, lead the visitor into an imaginary world that evokes the soul of chivalry. The themes evoked by the artists include the self-portrait of the artist as knight, the armoury and character, the combat, the games of chess and jousting, the humanistic engagement, the conquest of time, etc.



With its turbulent history, Gaasbeek Castle is the ideal place for an investigation into what a knight means and how this fascinating image connects with the artist and world of today. 'The Artist/Knight' is a tribute to the poetic figure of chivalry who gallops out of the mists of romance. The tragic-heroic warrior who falls and rises again, who conquers, rescues, defends, protects, seeks and explores, and always remains active, full of anticipation and with an urge to interpret in his sights.



'The Artist/Knight' defines the knight as conceived in the mind, body and limbs of the contemporary artist. A number of works by modern masters (including Lovis Corinth, James Ensor and Lucio Fontana) reflect the historic embedding of the theme. Chess games, never exhibited before in Belgium, by e.g. Tracey Emin, Damien Hirst and Yoko Ono, embody the progressiveness of the artist/knight: the will for movement and change, the genesis of a different vision on the world.

With works by Marina Abramović, Uldus Bakhtiozina, Horia Damian, Robert Devriendt, Davide Dormino, Jan Fabre, Laurent Grasso, Phil Griffin, Oda Jaune, Kubra Khademi, Meiro Koizumi, Pere Llobera, Barbara Kruger, Kris Martin, Jonathan Meese, Fabien Mérelle, Benjamin Moravec, Eleni Mylonas, Luigi Ontani, Antonis Pittas, Quiet Ensemble, Gabriel Roca, Rob Scholte, Adeela Suleman, Hannelore Van Dijck, Hans Van Houwelingen, Marko Velk, Antonello Viola, voorforvaast fanclub and Andy Wauman.

**Details /** from Tuesday 11 July to Sunday 5 November 2017, open from 10.00 to 18.00 (last admission at 17.00), closed on Mondays. Tickets cost € 12, concession and group rate € 10, to 18 years € 2, to 7 years free. A combi-ticket for a visit to the exhibition and the museum garden costs € 13. Further information from Joanna De Vos at [www.joannadevos.be](http://www.joannadevos.be). The catalogue 'The Artist/Knight', published by Hannibal, is on sale from 11 July and costs € 24.50.

#### Pictures:

1. Andy Wauman, 'Knight Chest', 100 x 100 cm, print on silk, unique 1/1, courtesy of Deweer Gallery
2. Yoko Ono, 'Play it by trust' (white chess set), 1966/2009, 100 x 100 cm, wood and MDF, Reykjavík Art Museum, photo Arnaldur Halldorsson
3. Uldus Bakhtiozina, 'Reflective', from 'Russ Land' series, 2014, analogue photography/scanned film



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