



NICOLAS VAN PARYS

Kashi Rupé - unfolded

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Curator: Kristof Vander Cruyssen

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biography

Nicolas Van Parys (born 1974, Ghent) practises an artistic discourse in which the material and conceptual layering of the image takes centre stage. His oeuvre sits within the tension between the deconstructive technique of collage and the painterly freedom of the brush.

Working from a rich archive of both found analogue fragments and personal recordings, he subjects images to a methodical transformation. By isolating them from their original context, and recontextualising them through a physical process of cutting, rearranging and overpainting, Van Parys argues unequivocally for the enduring force of the handmade within a fleeting, contemporary image culture.





CP Liquid Holy
2025, oil on panel
57 x 80 cm, framed

introduction

In the spiritual heat of Varanasi (Kashi), a city that breathes on the threshold between life and death, Nicolas Van Parys found the seed of his newest body of work. Along the banks of the Ganges, where tradition and transformation (Rupé) constantly meet, his artistic practice underwent a fundamental shift. Varanasi is a place of perpetual transmutation. It is a place where matter perishes and meaning takes shape again and again in the ash and the current of the river. This layered, transcendent atmosphere forms the heartbeat of the works in this exhibition.

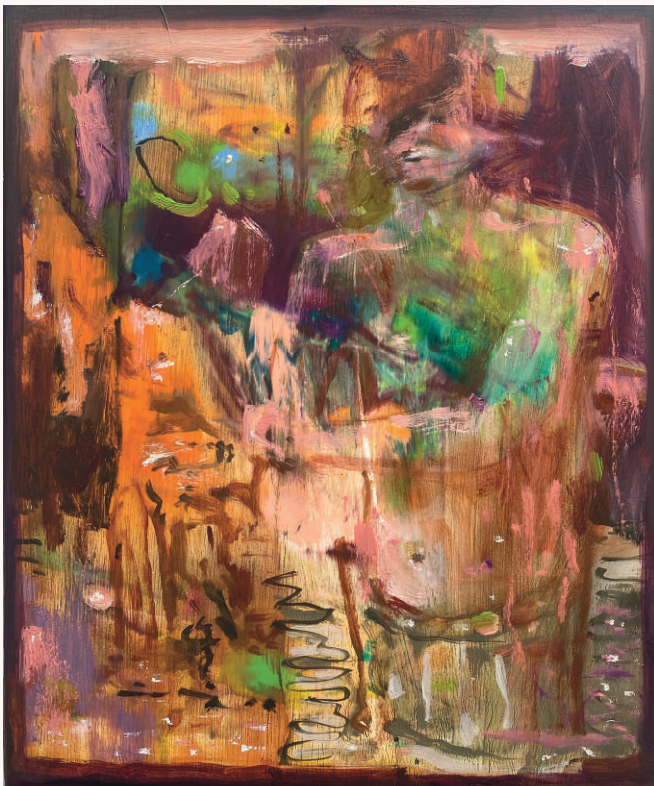
Van Parys's oeuvre is never static; it is a continuous process of unfolding. Although collage still serves as the foundation, the technique through which reality is deconstructed and rearranged, these new images move beyond mere reconstruction. Fragments of recognisability flow into lyrical, painted forms, opening onto a magical, almost dreamlike world.

"The canvas functions as a threshold, a gateway into a world that feels at once entirely foreign and yet familiar."

In Van Parys's 'in-between world', fixed forms dissolve. The layering here is at once visual and mental: beneath the skin of the painting lies a longing for essence and reconciliation. He gathers fragments from our collective visual culture and transforms them through paint and daring.

The result is a fluid universe in which colour and structure guide the way towards a deeply personal perception of reality. What remains hidden behind the façade of everyday perception is given a voice here.

Kashi Rupé - unfolded invites the viewer to pause at the fleeting moments of transformation. It is a place where the past meets the present, and where the image reveals itself to the viewer, layer by layer.



CP Varanasi Stillness
2026, oil on panel
23 x 27 cm, float frame

intent

This publication accompanies the exhibition *Kashi Rupé - unfolded*, presented at the DeNode Foundation in Ghent from 15 May to 26 July 2026. It is conceived as an archival object: a document that, for readers who were not present, makes legible the layout and formal logic of the exhibition as well as Nicolas Van Parys's current practice.

The exhibition functions as the sediment of a month-long residency in the city of Varanasi, the spiritual heart of India, in November 2025, and the elaboration of that experience in his most recent series of paintings.

The exhibition also brings into view the human connection that took shape during the residency. In close collaboration with Sofie Bos and local students of the Faculty of Fine Arts at the Banaras Hindu University, the artist examined the ritual foundations of their respective visual cultures. Alongside the paintings, we therefore also present the working process itself: the collages, the photographs, and the video fragments of interviews and performances of and with the students.

Kashi Rupé - unfolded is therefore more than an exhibition. It is a dialogue between cultures and a celebration of the transformative nature of art.



residency

15 May 2026

In the winter of 2024, after a turbulent period, I resolved to focus on the things that give my life real meaning: my children, painting and travel. Twenty years ago I spent a few days in Varanasi while passing through. The city has never let me go since, and I had always wanted to return.

My fascination for this city, and my motivation for a deeper artistic collaboration, both find their origin in a particular memory from that first journey. My good friend Jeffrey P. took me at the time to the Banaras Hindu University. The atmosphere of spontaneity and openness, the outdoor life, and, paradoxically, the many constraints, made this a magical place.

There the surroundings stand in stark contrast to the sometimes oppressive alleys of the city. The avenues around the university are wide, open and strikingly green. During that first visit I met a young English woman who was carrying out research there as an independent student. That was the moment the seed was planted: I felt the urge to collaborate with the university and began to dream of a cross-pollination between our two cultures.

I began searching for a way to combine a visit with artistic research, and November turned out to be the ideal month to stay there. What draws me so strongly to Varanasi is the confrontation with the smallness of life; nowhere do you come closer to that fact than there. I set to work on this idea, and in November 2025 the challenge finally became reality.



The residency was a relief: an oasis of green, fully shielded from the constant chaos of the streets, only fifteen minutes from the Ganges. The place is run by Petra, a German woman, and her husband Navneet, who grew up there. Together with our guide Ajay, they supported us in our research and showed us extraordinary places.

Each day we were welcomed by their four graceful greyhounds. Within the safe, walled enclosure, they stand in contrast to the street dogs outside the walls, a metaphor for the omnipresent and harrowing inequality of the place. Consciously or not, greyhounds have long played a role in my work. The elegance and the (decisive) strength they radiate are a constant source of inspiration. Their presence gave me calm and confidence; it felt like coming home.

The residency was also a place of wonderful vegetarian cooking, and we enjoyed the familial atmosphere there. There were beautiful exchanges and shared outings with the other residents: Margaretta (Australia), Emily (US), Anja (Switzerland) and Nuala (Wales). In my own working process, I focused on analogue collages. At my worktable I cut up my photographs into new compositions in which the memories of twenty years ago and the impressions of today finally came together.

Nicolas







C Electric Threats
2025, photocollage
13,3 x 21 cm



CP Plastic Karma
2025, photocollage
15 x 20,3 cm

workshop

In the run-up to the residency in Varanasi, contact was made with the local university to organise a workshop together with students from the Fine Arts department. This became an artistic laboratory in which the interplay between matter, history and environment took centre stage. Setting out from the Belgian Surrealist tradition, which interrogates the everyday and exposes the ‘strange’ within the familiar, we sought out an interaction with the rich symbolic traditions of Indian culture. This formed a deliberate fusion: the Western legacy of the unexpected entered into confrontation with the powerful spiritual symbolism and ritual layering inherent to the site of the Banaras Hindu University.





Rather than a traditional transfer of knowledge, this initiative functioned as an open, intuitive dialogue between the facilitators, Nicolas Van Parys and Sofie Bos, and the students. Sofie Bos, Nicolas's partner, was closely involved in the facilitation and the communication of the workshop. With her expertise in Belgian fashion and design, she introduced the students to a range of artistic forms. For two weeks Nicolas could count on her continuous support, and her contribution proved an enormous added value to the entire research process.

The methodology rested on a radical exchange: the personal rituals, symbols and visual stories of the participants became the building blocks of the collective process. By mirroring Belgian Surrealist concepts against the deeply rooted Indian traditions of colour, ritual and movement, a new and hybrid visual language emerged.





The results presented here, ranging from constructed figures to the photographic and painted works that grew out of them, testify to a shared search for a new visual language. The workshop acted as a catalyst for a creative process that exceeds the boundaries of its specific site and continues to develop in future exhibitions and publications. It shows the force of what arises when individual creativity, fed by both Surrealist doubt and spiritual symbolism, is set to work within a shared field of artistic research. The result invites the viewer to look with an open gaze, and to question, once again, the fragile boundary between dream and reality.

Nicolas Van Parys
Sofie Bos

Dr. Saheb Ram Tudu
Dr. Amresh Kumar

Akhilesh Rathod
Prosonjit Paul
Vibha Dev
Seeta Kumari
Apurva Raje
Bittu Kumar
Adarsh Mishra
Indrapal
Saurabh Pathak
Raksha Soni
Vivek Maurya
Artika Verma
Ayush Kumar
Sirsho Acharya
Harshit Yadav
Sonu Kumar
Aditya Sharma
Isha Halder
Aditi Singh
Punita





Identification
General public is hereby informed that a male person Name: Nitin, S/o [Name], R/o: [Address], Age: 22 Yrs, Height: 5'5", Sex: Male, Complexion: [Color], Face: Round, Build: Thin, Tattoo Wearing: [Location], No Clothing on the Body, BSA Hospital [Address], Rohini, Delhi The dead body of [Name] is preserved in Dr. Baba [Name] Ambekar Hospital Delhi, for identification.
ad: 26/10/2025 has been done, Rohini, Delhi Any clue [Name], Rohini, Delhi 8750870330

SEARCH FOR MIS
General public is hereby informed that this boy Name: [Name], R/o: [Address], Age: 14 Yrs, Height: 5'5", Sex: Male, Complexion: [Color], Face: Round, Build: Medium, Complexion: [Color], Black colour lower lip, feet is missing from his 57A, dated 21.10.2025. Any person having any information or clue about this missing person, please inform P.S. Ashok Vihar, Ph: 011-27242017, 27242018, 8750870330

IDENTIFICATION
General public is hereby informed that a unidentified dead body of [Name], Age: 22 Yrs, Height: 5'5", Sex: Male, Complexion: [Color], Face: Round, Build: Medium, Complexion: [Color], Black colour lower lip, feet is missing from his 57A, dated 21.10.2025. Any person having any information or clue about this missing person, please inform P.S. Ashok Vihar, Ph: 011-27242017, 27242018, 8750870330

SEARCH FOR MISSING
General public is hereby informed that a female named Shivani, D/o Raju Chaudhary, R/o Old Palam Road, Vishkarma Mandir, Delhi has been missing since 23.10.2025 from her house. In this regard DD No. 57 A, Dated 23.10.2025 has been lodged at Police Station Dwarka North, Delhi. The description of missing female is as follows:
Name: Shivani, Age: 22 Years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Fair, Wearing: Black Colour Suit, Salwar and Slipper in Feet.
If anyone has any information about this missing female please inform P.S. Dwarka North, Delhi.
Web: http://cbi.nic.in, E-mail: cbi@cbi.gov.in
Ph: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639
DP/14512/DW/2025

SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE
General Public is hereby informed that one female (depicted in the photo) RZF-1/20B, 2nd Floor, Kataria R/o Mahavir Enclave-1, Palam, Delhi missing since 21.02.2025 at about 07:30 PM from her residence vide u/s 140(3) Bhartiya dated 15.10.2025 registered at Police Station Palam Village, New Delhi. Her physical description is as under:
Complexion: Fair, Height: 5'2", Face: Long, Built: Normal, Clothing: Unknown Clothes.
If anyone gets any information or clue about the missing female, please contact the below mentioned:-
E-mail: cbi@cbi.gov.in, Website: http://cbi.nic.in, Tel: 24368638
SHO, Palam Village, New Delhi Tel: 011-25365981, 25365979, 705036227
DP/14377/SW/2025

UJJVN Ltd.
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprises)
H.O. "UJJVN" Maharan, Bagh, CHS Road, Dehradun-248006
CIN No. U49101UP200715GCG025866 Website: www.ujjvn.com
e-TENDER NOTICE Date: 29.10.2025
The office of Executive Engineer (Maintenance), Tiloth Power House, Uttarkashi invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:
Tender No: 08/EE/MM/2025-26
Name of work: Major overhauling of unit #1 and repair of various underwater parts of Tiloth Power House, Uttarkashi.
Estimated cost: Rs.2,51,34,750.00 (GST extra)
Date of availability of bid document on website:- 30.10.2025 from 16:00 Hrs
Last date for submission of bids on website:- 30.10.2025 up to 16:00 Hrs.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal http://uk.tenders.gov.in
Executive Engineer (Maintenance)
"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

Pashchimanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited
Superintending Engineer (MM-1), Urja Bhawan, Victoria Park, Meerut
Information of E-Short Term Tender: PVVNL-MT/MM/26-25 dated 29.10.2025
Name of Work: Supply of 3-phase Power Analyzer (Trolley Mounted with all accessories) Capacity 1000 KVA - 5 Nos.
Amount of Tender Cost: Rs. 3,540.00 | Amount of EMD: Rs. 29,100.00
Last Date of E-Short Term Tender: 29 November 2025, 14:00 Hrs.
The Detailed information & tender documents are available on web site https://tenderup.nic.in. Further all information shall be published on above web site. RO-1238/30.10.2025

SEARCH FOR MISSING
General public is hereby informed that a unidentified male person (depicted in the photo) name Unknown, registered at Police Station Dwarka North, Delhi. The description of missing male is as follows:
Name: Shivani, Age: 22 Years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Fair, Wearing: Black Colour Suit, Salwar and Slipper in Feet.
If anyone has any information about this missing male please inform P.S. Dwarka North, Delhi.
Web: http://cbi.nic.in, E-mail: cbi@cbi.gov.in
Ph: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639
SHO, Police Station Dwarka North, Delhi Ph: 8750871022, 8750036060
DP/14512/DW/2025

SEARCH FOR MISSING
General Public is hereby informed that one woman Name: Basanti Mandal, W/o: Shyam Lal Mandal, R/o: House No. 10, Khizrabad, New Friends Colony, New Delhi, Sex: Female, Age: 21 Years, Height: 4'10", Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Thin, Face: Long, Wearing: Pink Colour Kurta, Red Colour Lower and Sandles in Feet, has been missing from her residence since 06.10.2025. In this regard DD No. 67A, Dated: 10.10.2025 has been registered at P.S.: New Friends Colony, New Delhi.
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing woman but no clue has come to light. Please inform to the following:
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Website: http://cbi.nic.in
E-Mail ID: cbi@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
DP/14342/SE/2025
SHO Ph: 8750870924, 9811822613

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION
General public is hereby informed that a unidentified dead body of a Unknown, R/o: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, on 25.10.2025 at Road Side Near TB Hospital, Mehrauli, Delhi and declared dead Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 46 A, dated 25.10.2025, U/s 194 Bhartiya Station Mehrauli, Delhi. Identification of unidentified male is as follows:
Name: Unknown, Age: Approx 50 Years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Shallow, Built: Normal, Face: Oval, Wearing: Blue Colour Check Shirt and Black Colour Pant.
If anyone have any information or clue about this male may kindly be inform undersigned.
DP/14608/SD/2025
Ph: 8750870824, 9582992405
SHO P.S. Mehrauli, Delhi

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TUBERCULOSIS AND RESPIRATORY DISEASES
(An Autonomous Institute under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
Sri Aurobindo Marg, Near Qutub Minar, New Delhi-110030
CORRIGENDUM
Tender ID - Ref. No. NITRD/Ten. (Estate), dated 22.10.2025
Name of Tender: "Refurbishment & Upgradation of Doctors Training hostel at NITRD, New Delhi"
With reference to the above-mentioned tender document, please note the following amendment:
1. The date of the Pre-bid Meeting, which was not included under Point No. 3 on Page 33 of the "Additional General Terms & Conditions", is now scheduled as follows:
• Date: 10th November 2025
• Time: 11:00 AM
• Venue: OPD Second Floor Conference Hall, National Institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases (Near Qutub Minar), Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi-110030
2. Attendance at the Pre-bid Meeting is mandatory for all prospective bidders. Non-attendance shall result in disqualification from the bidding process.
3. The tender document sale date has been extended till 01st December 2025 up to 11:00 AM.
4. The tender should be deposited in the Tender Box of "Estate Department" kept in Procurement Cell latest by 03:00 PM on 01st December 2025.
5. The Tender will be opened at 11:00 AM on 04th December 2025 in Procurement Cell.
All other Terms & Conditions will remain unchanged.
DIRECTOR

SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY
General Public is hereby informed that one boy [Name], Age: [Age], Height: [Height], Sex: [Sex], Complexion: [Color], Face: [Shape], Build: [Build], Wearing: [Clothing], has been missing from [Location] since [Date].
If anyone has any information about this missing boy, please inform P.S. [Location], Delhi.
Web: http://cbi.nic.in, E-mail: cbi@cbi.gov.in
Ph: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639
SHO, [Location], Delhi Ph: [Phone Number]
DP/14512/DW/2025

NOTICE
Notice No. AGC-EL-C-2009/25(A)
f North central railway
Dy. Chief Electrical Eng and behalf of President o (E-Tendering) for the following:
Tender No.: AGC-EL-C-2009/25(A)
Name of work with it Commissioning of (2x25) Bhandari Flyover in conne down train (10 km) Aggra Di
Approx. Cost of the work:-
Completion Period:- 12 w/ letter including monsoon per
Tender closing date & time
Validity of offer:- 60 days fr
Tenderers can only submit th up to 15:00 hrs on 19.11.20 please see the Indian Railway
North central railways

missing people

During his residency in India, Nicolas Van Parys made a train journey from Delhi to Varanasi, a passage that would become the seed for a deeply affecting artistic project. In the local newspapers he read along the way, he was confronted with a harrowing reality: pages filled with notices of missing persons, and with reports of bodies found without identification. This anonymous mass, caught between life and death, prompted the beginning of a series of 108 portraits that compel the viewer to dwell on the fate of the forgotten fellow human being.

The basis for this series lies in the black-and-white photographs from those newspapers, images that were originally intended for identification. Van Parys, however, chooses to transform them. In his paintings, the faces are often distorted and unrecognisable. This artistic choice produces a paradox: where the newspaper wishes to identify the person, Van Parys instead erases the specific identity. With that gesture, the focus shifts from factual search to a universal reflection on loss and the fragility of existence.

The choice of precisely 108 portraits is profoundly meaningful and rooted in Indian culture. In Hinduism and Buddhism, the number 108 is regarded as sacred and complete, binding together the cosmos and the human body. From the 108 beads of a prayer string (mala) to the reputed 108 energy channels of the human body, the number symbolises a state of wholeness. By holding to this number, Van Parys lifts his work from accidental, tragic observation into a ritual process that draws the departed out of forgetting and grants them a spiritual dignity.

Although Van Parys himself modestly describes the work as a 'side project', its emotional weight runs deep. The project functions as a silent witness to the transient nature of life, a theme that finds added resonance in the city of Varanasi, known for its rituals around death and rebirth. By distorting the faces, he strips the images of their everyday tragedy and transforms them into timeless icons of a human experience that often goes unnoticed.



P missing people 11/108
2026, oil on paper
20 x 27,5 cm, framed

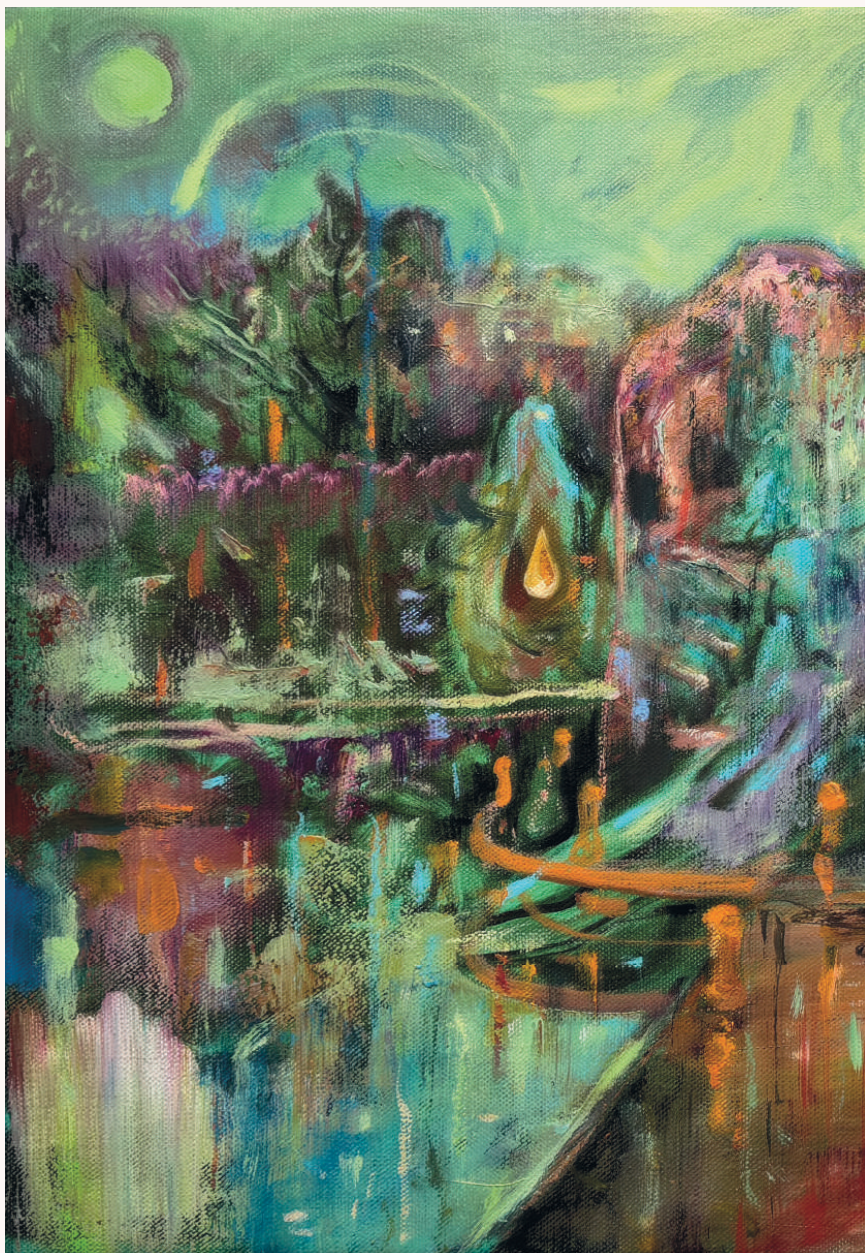
P missing people 1/108
2026, oil on paper
20 x 27,5 cm, framed







CP Unspoken Threats
2026, oil on panel, mixed media
29,5 x 40,5 cm, framed



CP Source of the Sacred
2026, oil on canvas
80 x 52 cm



CV

2026

KASHI RUPÉ - UNFOLDED, solo show, *DeNode Foundation*, Ghent

BADAFF, art fair, *Unframed gallery*, Ghent

COUPEE COLLAGE COLLECTIVE, group show, *4n20*, Kortrijk

2025

BARATH KASHI, residency, *Kriti*, Varanasi, India

BUY LOCAL, group show, *Kunsthal*, Ghent

(DE)FORMATION, group show, *Unframed gallery*, Ghent

ANATOMY OF DESIRE, solo show, *Unframed gallery*, Ghent

VONK, group show, *Burgstraat 49*, Ghent

2024

CHIMAERA, solo show, *BLANCO / Nucleo*, Ghent

COMPOSITET, group show *Campo Santo*, Ghent

RAAM 103, residency, *Raam 103 vzw*, Ghent

AESTHETIC ECHOES, group show, *+One*, Antwerp

WEERLICHT.BE, online gallery

REFLECTION, group show, *Nucleo*, Ghent

HUMAN/NATURE, group show, *De Cellen*, Oostkamp

WHISKY SOUR, group show, *Katapultt*, Scheldewindeke

SIBI SIBI, group show, *Galerie Gevaert*, Zwevezele

2023

WONDER, 3D collage, *K-Totem*, Kortrijk

BUY LOCAL, group show, *Kunsthal*, Ghent

WALKING ON THIN ICE, group show, *CAS*, Zottegem

IN THE INSIDE, group show, Bruges

2022

ART BEATS, Art Collection BELFIUS, group show, *Belfius*, Brussels

ONGOING CONVERSATIONS, group show, *Galerie Gevaert*, Zwevezele

2021

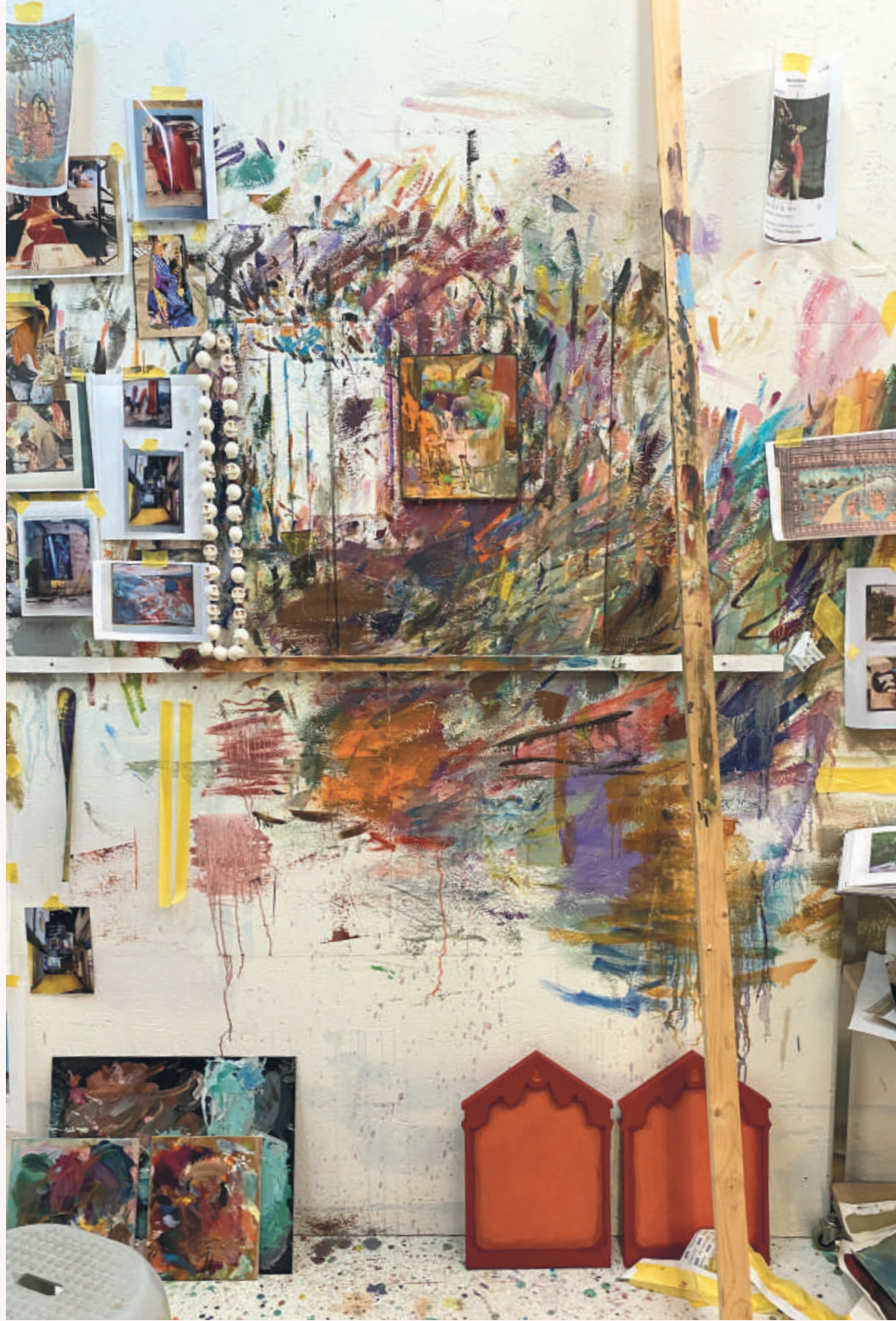
LISTRUM, group show, *Zebrastraat*, Ghent

BLUE VEIL, solo show, *Galerie Gevaert*, Zwevezele

A TOTAL PERFORMANCE, by Ben Benaouisse, *S.M.A.K*, Ghent

WHAT HAS BEEN, solo show, *Galerie DYS*, Ixelles

DIVE INTO MANKIND, group show, *CERA*, Leuven



DeNode Foundation



The DeNode Foundation supports contemporary artistic practices rooted in research, process and transmission. Through exhibitions, research programmes and international collaborations, the foundation accompanies artists whose work engages with materiality, space, the body, narrative and temporality.

The private foundation was established by Paul De Cannière and Mieke Van Loo. Artistic direction lies with Kristof Vander Cruyssen, art historian and artist, who safeguards the foundation's course and accompanies the development of exhibitions and residencies. Hanna Ouaziz, curator and cultural strategist, leads the international programmes and editorial projects.



Nicolas Van Parys
Kashi Rupé - unfolded

15 May to 26 July 2026
Predikherenlei 4, 9000 Ghent, Belgium

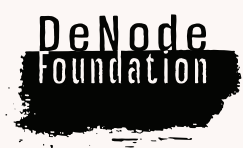
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Publication: Kristof Vander Cruyssen & Vincent Noël
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Artistic direction: Kristof Vander Cruyssen
Curator of international programmes: Hanna Ouaziz

With thanks to Hilde Van Canneyt, and to the entire DeNode team, including the staff, volunteers and everyone who helps to build this place.

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A publication of



2026