



## PRESS RELEASE

**SOLO SHOW** KEVIN VANWONTERGHEM

**BORROWED SCENERY** 7 SEPTEMBER – 25 OKTOBER 2025



*'Borrowed Scenery – Citadelpark #1' by Kevin Vanwongerghem, 2025, charcoal on paper, 145x100cm*

Husk Gallery is delighted to present **'Borrowed Scenery'**, the inaugural exhibition by Belgian artist Kevin Vanwonderghem (°1984, Ghent) in its space at Rivoli Brussels. **Borrowed Scenery** features his latest series of charcoal drawings. Drawing inspiration from the design of city parks and their role in our lives as contemporary oases, the Belgian artist creates an imaginary world in which individual, romanticised elements of nature appear to take centre stage yet remain subject to intervention. Vanwonderghem questions our connection with nature through paradoxical boundaries and windows onto the landscape. He takes us on an intriguing visual journey, shifting our gaze back and forth between the physical drawing and the representation of the drawn landscape.

In the wake of romanticism, Kevin Vanwonderghem draws constructed landscapes that invite you to step inside, but also offer a disorienting, surreal window onto the nature that surrounds us. He invariably draws compositions derived from different environments in deep black charcoal. For his latest series, he was inspired by, among other things, the picturesque **Citadel Park** in Ghent with its rare trees and rock formations. Initially designed at the end of the 19th century in the English landscape style on the site of an old citadel, the city park remains a green lung in 2025, offering a place to relax and escape the hustle and bustle of the city. Particularly intrigued by the scenographic structure of this picturesque park with its vistas and romantic spaces, Kevin Vanwonderghem translates these fragments into his drawings. Each image is carefully constructed. He always seeks a certain friction in the viewing experience by combining depth and atmosphere with two-dimensional lines and planes, which allow the viewer's gaze to wander alternately between the "drawn" and the "drawing". He likes to play with the tension between realism and fiction, in order to take the viewer into an imaginary space that becomes almost tangible.

In the **'Untitled' series**, Vanwonderghem depicts a flag as a symbolic object. Although flags are often associated with demarcated areas, here they refer to something extremely ephemeral: ever-changing, infinite, cloudy skies that unfold and disappear with the wind. While he leaves room for interpretation, Vanwonderghem's work raises questions about our contemporary experience of nature, and how we engage with it — either immersing ourselves in it in a highly controlled manner, or shutting ourselves off from it entirely. In the **'Un/scene' series**, for instance, he plays with visual elements reminiscent of sun blinds. Graphic lines and planes seem to conceal or reveal the cloudy skies.

The exhibition also features new works from his **'Mirror series'**, wall installations that reflect drawings in a sphere of black glass that distorts reality. The artist encourages us to look at the landscape differently, like the 18th-century Claude glasses that were taken on walks. The works depict fragments of the vast landscape in Spitsbergen, the landscape just above the Global Seed Vault. At this location, seeds that are important to humankind are stored deep in the permafrost.

Kevin Vanwonterghem invites us on a philosophical stroll that constantly surprises with its variety of perspectives and unique atmosphere. It is no longer unknown that walking as an activity encourages deeper reflection and better observation. Kevin Vanwonterghem's inquiring gaze on the contemporary natural landscape, which is largely cultivated, is a recurring theme in his work. Through his tangible mise-en-scène, he focuses our attention on our disrupted relationship with nature. Despite our increasing alienation from nature due to urbanisation, we still seek connection with it by walking in idyllic parks and nature reserves. The artist analyses and questions the authenticity of these landscapes.



*'Untitled' by Kevin Vanwonterghem, 2025, charcoal on paper, 130x80cm*

### *About the artist*

**Kevin Vanwonderghem** creates drawings that evoke an imaginary world in which landscape elements form the building blocks for fictional, sometimes surreal settings. Each landscape is devoid of human presence, transcending the mere representation of an environment. Due to his preference for drawing with charcoal, Kevin Vanwonderghem's visual universe is characterised by strong contrasts and nuances. During his creative process, he pays close attention to the viewing experience. Using very dark compressed charcoal enables him to achieve deep black tones on paper. His velvety landscapes immerse the viewer in a dark, mysterious atmosphere, somewhere between reality and fiction, between objectification and romanticism. The concept of the image and the aesthetic experience are equally important.



*Kevin Vanwonderghem (born 1984) lives and works in Destelbergen, Belgium. He graduated from the Luca School of Arts in Ghent in 2007 with a Master's degree in Visual Arts, specialising in Illustration. He subsequently studied graphic art at the Academy of Fine Arts in Ghent. His drawings have been exhibited at various shows in Belgium. In 2024, Husk Gallery exhibited his work in the duo show "Lux. Out of the Dark". He has also exhibited at CC Gildhof in Tielt (2025), the Tobacco Museum in Wervik (2022), CC De Warande in Turnhout (2019), and Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens (2016), among others. He also works as a graphic arts teacher at the Academy of Fine Arts in Zottegem, Belgium.*

Download Kevin Vanwonderghem's CV [here](#)

**Opening**

Sunday 7 September 2025 from 2 to 7 pm in the presence of the artist

**Rivoli Open Sunday** 12 October 2025 from 2 to 6 pm

**Opening hours during exhibition**

Thursday\*, Friday and Saturday from 2 to 6 pm or by appointment

\*Exceptionally closed on 11.09

The exhibition ends on Saturday 25 October 2025

**For further inquiries:**

Contact Ingrid Van Hecke – Gallery Director

Mail [info@huskgallery.com](mailto:info@huskgallery.com)

Tel. +32 478 52 16 46

Website [www.huskgallery.com](http://www.huskgallery.com)

**Address Husk Gallery**

Rivoli Building ground floor, Chaussée de Waterloo 690 #12, 1180 Brussels

**Social media**

Facebook: [@huskartgallery](https://www.facebook.com/huskartgallery) ; Instagram: [@huskgallery](https://www.instagram.com/huskgallery)

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