



# BERLINDE DE BRUYCKERE PEL / BECOMING THE FIGURE

*3 July 2022 – 8 January 2023*

[www.arpmuseum.org](http://www.arpmuseum.org)

# BERLINDE DE BRUYCKERE

## PEL / BECOMING THE FIGURE

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*Berlinde De Bruyckere (b. 1964, living and working in Ghent, Belgium) is one of the most important international sculptors of our time. Her sculptures are both fascinating and stirring and literally get »under the viewers' skin«.*

In her creative work, human beings with their physical and emotional wounds play a central role. The 34 works on show touch us with their vulnerability and melancholy, ranging between vitality and death, harmony and deformation, figurativeness and abstraction. They bear witness to visible and perceptible processes of transformation in human and animal life.

In her work, the artist abundantly explores ancient mythologies and Christian themes and adapts them to the present. In keeping with the exhibition title *»PEL/Becoming the figure«*, she approaches the becoming of her sculptures through different methods. The palette ranges from the shell that forms a body, to its fragmentation, to fully formed corporeality.

De Bruyckere's depiction of the human figure is based on classical formal principles. Here, the choice of wax as a material, which she works on as if in a painterly process, plays a decisive role for the realism of her sculptures. Often heavily deformed, they demand a high degree of intrepidity and empathetic perceptiveness from the recipients.

The immediacy of her works is also the result of the close collaboration with a number of dancers with whom the artist has been working since 2008. First and foremost, with the Portuguese dancer Romeu Runa (b. 1978, living and working in Brussels), who will enact dance performances during the exhibition at the Arp Museum.

### *»The Skin Encloses the Soul«*

**Berlinde De Bruyckere**

Since 1999, horses have played an eminent role in Berlinde De Bruyckere's oeuvre. Her intensive study of historical images from the archives of the *In Flanders Field Museum* in Ypres made her visualise the cruel fate of millions of horses who have fallen victim on the battlefields of the First World War. On the basis of cast bodies she created extremely impressive and touching sculptures.

Alongside Berlinde De Bruyckere's creaturely sculptural works, drawings play a significant role. For the exhibition at Rolands-eck, 10 new works on paper have been created that oscillate between collage and relief. In correspondence to this, a large textile work, made of used and weathered blankets with different patterns and colours, makes a strong impression. It is reminiscent of removed frescoes, which like in a relief the artist arranges in relation to each other. But they also evoke the people they once protected, warmed and enveloped. They are testimonies to unknown biographies and indefinable conditions of human life.



# PERFORMANCES AT THE ARP MUSEUM WITH ROMEU RUNA

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Inspired by her works and in collaboration with Berlinde De Bruyckere, the Portuguese dancer Romeu Runa presents two different performances on three dates. *Romeu my deer* is based on the ancient myth of Actaeon by Ovid. While hunting, Actaeon finds the goddess Diana taking a bath and is then transformed into a deer by her. In the form of the stag, Actaeon is hunted down and mauled by his own dogs. The performance *Sibylle* also takes up a story from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. At the heart of it is Sibyl of Cumae, who ages tragically due to a wish she made in an unfortunate way. As she lives through several hundred years, her physical deterioration progresses visibly until she is left only as a voice.

## **Romeu my deer**

📅 July 3, 2022 | 4 pm | Lobby New Building  
October 9, 2022 | 2 pm | Banqueting hall  
at Rolandseck train station

## **Sibylle**

📅 January 8, 2023 | 5 pm | In the exhibition

€ free of charge | plus museum entrance fee

📍 **Registration necessary!**

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## **Guided tours and workshops**

We offer guided tours and workshops in English.

For inquiries and bookings please contact:

+49 2228 9425-36 | [anmeldung@arpmuseum.org](mailto:anmeldung@arpmuseum.org)

## **Media Guide**

To accompany the exhibition, we offer a media guide that provides background information on the individual works. This can be downloaded within the Arp Museum app for 4.50 Euros.



**J.L., 2006** | Berlinde De Bruyckere | *Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth*  
Photo: Mirjam Devriendt



**Foot, 2008** | Berlinde De Bruyckere | *Private Collection, London*  
Photo: Mirjam Devriendt



**Het Hart uitgerukt, 1996** | Berlinde De Bruyckere  
Collection Joris Beernaert | Photo: Mirjam Devriendt



**Marsyas, 2020** | Berlinde De Bruyckere | *Museum Voorlinden, Wassenaar, The Netherlands* | Photo: Ela Bialkowska



**Lichaam (Corps), 2002–2006** | Berlinde De Bruyckere | *Courtesy the artist and Galleria Continua*  
Photo: Mirjam Devriendt

**Picture page 1**  
**Courtyard Tales, 2017–2018** | Berlinde De Bruyckere | *Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth* | Photo: Mirjam Devriendt

**Picture page 3**  
**Romeu »my deer«, 2010** | Berlinde De Bruyckere | *Collection of the artist*  
Foto: Mirjam Devriendt

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