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WIDEWALLS

CINEMATIC REVISIT OF METAPHYSICAL ART IN KOEN VAN DEN BROEK EXHIBITION OPENING AT ALBERTZ BENDA

Jan Arsen



The famous Belgian painter Koen van den Broek is having his third solo exhibition in New York, and it's an important one. Alongside the works painted in his familiar style, *The Light We Live In* displays Van den Broek's new work that appears somewhat similar to film stills. The pronounced play of light and shadow in the context of human subjects brings the intrigue, storytelling and emotion to Van den Broek's oeuvre.

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Left: Koen van den Broek – Motorcycle, 2015 – oil on canvas / **Right:** Koen van den Broek – Re

Van Den Broek: Fascination With Urban Sceneries

Koen van den Broek has a degree in Architectural Engineering and his paintings mostly depict urban landscapes, streets and roads. Aesthetically, he's influenced by photography and film – genre-wise, namely neo-noir and horror. These influences are very visible in his new works, where a lot of images look like they belong in a suspense film. These new works show the evolution of Van den Broek as an artist. His paintings are changing from an objective plan to a subjective one. The inspiration for that is drawn from the artist's recent commissioned work. Koen van den Broek has created scenographies for the Ballet of Flanders and the Belgian Opera

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House. It's no wonder that his new paintings look like they're parts of a wider story. The suggestive choice of locations and human figures brings the notion of movement and transition, while the urban scenery no longer appears objectively depicted and abstract.

Featured image: Koen van den Broek – Sunset, 2015 – oil on canvas. All images courtesy of Albertz Benda gallery.

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