

CV

Steven Baelen, °1981, Roeselare, Belgium.
Lives and works in Ghent, B

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STUDIES

2021 – 2023

Educational Master, LUCA, School of Arts, Ghent, B

2009 – 2010

Laureate, Higher Institute for Fine Arts (HISK), Ghent, B

2003 – 2006

MFA Painting, KASK, School of Arts, Ghent, B

1999 – 2003

Master of Graphic Design, LUCA, School of Arts, Ghent, B



[Artistscan: Fotorama]

Characterized by a certain quiet, introspective attitude, Baelen's ensemble of works is rich in little hidden surprises (when not almost treasures), not so easy or immediate to be recognized. His work, mainly obtained thru' a painstakingly, quite highly patient need to do, re-do and re-work the very substance of his practice – the drawing technique – is re-invented by the employment of a complex and layered miniaturesque work based on stratification, superimposition and by means of creating sudden blank spaces (obtained by erasure) or sometimes by the deliberate inclusion (in the finalized form of the works) of unexpected black spots, patches and blotches which in turn come to assume a very well balanced sense of presence, in stark contrast with the minutely organized landscape of the grid-like or maze-like drawing surface(s).

As in its entire history – at the very same time project and process – the drawing impulse – as clearly exemplified by the unabashed intensity of Steven Baelen – isn't located only in what the artist chooses to concentrate on (the resulting drawings) but in the pauses, blank space and the visual rhythm which in turn may result stronger than what is perceived at a first look.

[Written by Francesco Bernardelli.]

SOLO EXHIBITIONS (selection)

2026 – *The Grammar of Melancholy*, Studio23, Ghent, B
2023 – *Ik spiegel, jij spiegel*, KU Leuven Faculty Club, Leuven, B
2022 – *02.12.20 - 14.07.17*, Galerie El, Welle, B
2020 – *Steven Baelen*, Galerie El, Welle, B
2018 – *Art on Paper*, in collaboration with BOZAR, Levy.Delval, Brussels, B (Solo booth)
2017 – *It's Just Black With a Little Bit Of Blue*, Levy.Delval, Brussels, B
2017 – *SOLO Summer Residency*, [in collaboration with Raveel Museum], Machelen-aan-de-Leie, B
2016 – *Wall Drawing*, l'Œil de Poisson, Quebec, CA
2015 – *Nostalgic Feelings*, Levy.Delval, Brussels, B
2013 – *La Chambre*, [with Elena Damiani], Elaine Levy Project, Brussels, B (Duo)
2012 – *Plein Air*, Cultural Centre de Bogaard, Sint-Truiden, B
2011 – *Early Pictures for a Past Life*, Elaine Levy Project, Brussels, B
2010 – *26.08.06 - 25.04.07*, Freespace 12, Bogarden Chapel, Bruges, B
2009 – *Steven Baelen*, Annie Gentils Gallery, Antwerp, B
2008 – *Crox 256*, Croxhapox, Ghent, B

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (selection)

2025 – *Na Beeld*, SmithArt, Middelburg, NL
2025 – *Luxembourg Art Week*, Studio23, Luxembourg, LU (Fair)
2024 – *2+2 en 4x1*, De Cacaofabriek, Helmond, NL [Cat.]
2024 – *Het Voorstel #3*, Biennale van ideeën, [caretaker Luk Lambrecht], cc de steiger, Menen, B [Cat.] (Biennial)
2024 – *IDKF audiovisual exhibition*, Sunny High Club & Musik der Jahrhunderte, Stuttgart, DE
2023 – *Verzamelarts*, The Governor's House, Ghent, B [Cat.]
2023 – *Chosen*, [curated by Ignace Devoldere], Zebrstraat, Liedts-Meesen Foundation, Ghent, B
2022 – *20 Years Galerie El*, Galerie El, Welle, B
2021 – *Daisies by Night*, [curated by Maaike Leyn], Ter Posterie [De Spil], Roeselare, B
2021 – *Resident #2*, d'Academie Beeld, [in collaboration with WARP], Sint-Niklaas, B (Residency)
2020 – *!Instructions_>*, La Raum, Berlin, DE
2019 – *Home, Sweet Home*, [curated by Jan Leysen], Kunstenhuis, Harelbeke, B [Cat.]
2018 – *Wall Drawing*, Fondation Thalie, Brussels, B (Commission)
2017 – *Fear in a Handful of Dust*, [compiled by Stefan Serneels], Marion de Cannière, Antwerp, B
2017 – *OrtungX – Im Zeichen des Goldes*, Alte Mälzerei, Schwabach, DE [Cat.] (Biennial)
2016 – *Teach Me a New Language*, [curated by Kruisdijk & Kuilboer], TETEM Kunstruimte, Enschede, NL
2016 – *Wewantosee*, [curated by Shichio Minato], 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, JP [Cat.]
2016 – *TA Lärm, Begehungen No 13*, Poelzig-premises, Chemnitz, DE [Cat.] (Residency)
2015 – *Aabenraa Artweek*, [initiative of Markus Johannes Herschbach], Aabenraa, DK [Cat.] (Biennial)
2015 – *Wall Drawing*, De Kleine Sikkels, Conservatory, School of Arts, Ghent, B (Commission)
2014 – *MAC International*, [Finalist], [curated by Hugh Mulholland & Eoin Dara], the MAC, Belfast, UK
2014 – *Refaire2*, Les Chiroux and the MADmusée, Liège, B
2013 – *Driven by Heroes*, CBK Zeeland, Middelburg, NL [Cat.]
2013 – *Mais Elle Est Où, La Peinture?*, [curated by Stijn Maes], KU Leuven Faculty of Law, Leuven, B [Cat.]
2013 – *Young Collectors*, Maison Particulière, Brussels, B
2013 – *Found in Translation*, Chapter M, [curated by Emmanuel Lambion], Muse Program, Brussels, B
2012 – *Schrijftuur – Scripture*, [curated by Michel Dewilde], De Bond, Bruges, B
2012 – *Elaine Levy Project in NYC*, hosted by the Fragmental Museum, Long Island City, NY
2012 – *Monat der Stipendiaten*, [curated by Angela Lammert], Akademie der Künste, Berlin, DE
2011 – *Charlie & Sabrina, Who Would Have Believed*, [Project in collaboration with Audrey Cottin], Jeu de Paume, Paris, FR [Cat.]
2011 – *Ondertekend*, All About Drawing, Zet Foundation, Amsterdam, NL
2011 – *Junge Akademie*, [Fellowship], AdK on Hanseatenweg, Berlin, DE [Cat.] (Open studio)
2010 – *Thank You for Tomorrow*, [curated by Jan Debbaut], De Zwarte Zaal, Ghent, B [Cat.]
2010 – *Public Private Paintings*, Mars op Oostende, Mu.Zee, Ostend, B [Cat.]
2010 – *When Will They Finally See the Power of Drawing*, Geukens & De Vil, Antwerp, B [Cat.]
2010 – *Lucht is Tastbaarder dan Mijn Gedachte*, [curated by Annemie Van Laethem], d'Aspremont-Lynden Castle, Oud-Rekem, B
2009 – *Wall Drawing, Kick-Off Project*, Het Paleis, Groningen, NL (Commission)
2009 – *Polyfonie*, [curated by Hans Martens], Watou#1, Verzamelde Verhalen, Grensland, Watou, B [Cat.]
2009 – *De Keuze van Koen Van den Broek*, Indian Caps, Antwerp, B [Cat.]
2008 – *Steven Baelen - Manor Grunewald - Vadim Vosters*, [curated by Patrick Ronse], Nosbaum & Reding, Luxembourg, LU
2008 – *Omgevingsteken*, [Nomination], [curated by E. D'Hoove], East-Flanders Culture Prize, Ghent, B [Cat.]

2008 – *Young Artists*, [selected by Kathrin Ginsberg], Palmarium, in collaboration with S.M.A.K. & Ghent University, B [Cat.]
 2007 – *Young Artists*, [selected by Dirk Pauwels], Palmarium, in collaboration with S.M.A.K. & Ghent University, B [Cat.]
 2007 – *Input/Output*, [Selection], De Bond, Bruges, B
 2006 – *ELLA 9th Biennial Conference*, KASK, School of Arts, De Bijloke, Ghent, B
 2006 – *Wall Drawing #1*, Logement, Antwerp, B

PUBLICATIONS

2023 – *NICCx25 - 25 Years Standing Up for Artists' Rights*, [ISBN 9789464363548], Stockmans Art Books, p.181–184
 2023 – *Verzamelarts*, [ISBN 9789464778021], Verzamelarts, co-published by MER. B&L, p.54–57
 2015 – *A Higher Institute for Fine Arts*, [ISBN 9789401423991], Lannoo, HISK, p.76–77
 2012 – *Conversaties - Conversations (2012–1995)*, [D/2012/0546/6], Stad Brugge, p.82–83
 2012 – *Steven Baelen, Der Raum im Verzug*, [ISBN 978-3-88331-189-0], AdK, Berlin, DE
 2011 – *Charlie & Sabrina, Qui l'èit cru?*, [ISBN 978-2-91570-428-0], Edition du Jeu de Paume, Paris, p.53
 2011 – *Vlaggenboek Mu.ZEE: Mars op Oostende*, [ISBN 9789074694025], Mu.ZEE Oostende, p.10–11
 2009 – *Watou 2009 - Tussen Taal & Beeld*, [ISBN 9789089310750], Borgerhoff & Lambergits, p.26
 2009 – *Who's Next? The Choice of*, [ISBN 978-90-9024550-8], Indian Caps
 2008 – *Omgevingsteken*, [ISBN 978-90-76686-36-3], CC Caermersklooster, Ghent, p.36–45

PRESS (selection)

2024 – “‘2+2 en 4x1’ in De Cacaofabriek Helmond daagt toeschouwer uit,” *Brabant Cultureel*, April [Anja van den Akker]
 2020 – “My 8-Year-Old Son Said I Should Do It,” *locus_t_mag*, Issue #6
 2018 – “ThalieLab, un nouvel 'incubateur' pour l'art contemporain,” *The Art Newspaper Daily*, April [Bernard Marcelis]
 2016 – “Bar du Matin,” Interview, *Radio 1* [Ann Rootveld]
 2016 – “Die Stille nach dem Schluss,” *Freie Presse*, August [Matthias Zwarg]
 2015 – “Artweek Slog Dørene Op,” *Jydske Vestkysten*, August [Bente Staugaard]
 2015 – “The Art Throwaway Project,” *The Word*, April [Sam Steverlynck]
 2015 – “Sofia Leiby / Steven Baelen,” *HART #141*, May [Sam Steverlynck]
 2015 – “Steven Baelen: Nostalgic Feelings,” *Agenda Magazine*, April [Kurt Snoekx]
 2015 – “Master Class, *Sabato*,” April [Margo Vansynghel]
 2015 – “Tekenen Vandaag,” *OKV*, April [Hans Theys]
 2013 – “Wie Steelt de Show op Art Brussels?,” *ELLE Agenda*, April [Caroline Henderickx]
 2013 – “La Chambre,” *This is Tomorrow*, April [Laura Herman]
 2013 – “Beeld van Actuele Tekenkunst,” *PZC*, August [Nico Out]
 2012 – “Ganz in Kohle: AdK Zeigt Ihre Stipendiaten,” *Der Tagesspiegel*, May [Annika Brockschmidt]
 2012 – “Scan the Artist: Steven Baelen,” *ISEL #42*
 2011 – “Steven Baelen – Early Pictures for a Past Life,” *Victoire*, October [Catherine Callico]
 2011 – “Early Pictures for a Past Life,” *HART #86*, September [Christine Vuegen]
 2011 – “Collectors' Call,” *Artforum*, May [Cathryn Drake]
 2011 – “HISK-laureaten in Zwarte Zaal Gent,” *HART #76*, January [Marc Ruyters]
 2010 – “Lucht is Tastbaarder dan Mijn Gedachte,” *HART #70*, September [Joannes Késenne]
 2009 – “Terrein Maken voor Iets Nieuws,” *HART #54*, July [Isabelle De Baets]
 2009 – “Afbreken en Weer Opbouwen,” *HART #52*, June [Isabelle De Baets]
 2009 – “Een Fundamenteel Beeldonderzoek,” *VMD Vol. 7*, Nr. 1-2, [Sara Goris]
 2008 – “Schilletjes Realiteit,” *Brugsch Handelsblad*, November [Johan Debruyne]
 2008 – “Spelen met de Omgeving,” *HART #37*, May [Inge Braeckman]

LECTURES & WORKSHOPS (selection)

2024 – *Petit Maître*, Academie Mechelen, B (Artist Talk)
 2023 – *Heritage Day*, Dr. Guislain Museum, Ghent, B (Lecture and Workshop)
 2021 – *Notes - Residency Steven Baelen*, d'Academie, Sint-Niklaas, B (Lecture)
 2020 – *Project Week*, 1st BA Drawing, LUCA, School of Arts, Ghent, B (Lecture)
 2018 – *Horta Hallway, Revaluation of Mural #2*, with Gaia Carabillo, KASK, School of Arts, Ghent, B (Collaboration)
 2017 – *Horizontal Drawing*, Sint-Lucas, Antwerp, B (Lecture)
 2015 – *Aabenraa Artweek*, Skraenten, Aabenraa, DK (Artist Talk)
 2012 – *Expanded Drawing*, 2nd & 3rd BA Drawing, LUCA, School of Arts, Ghent, B (Workshop)
 2012 – *The Drawing Incident*, 150th Anniversary, LUCA, School of Arts, Ghent, B (Lecture)
 2011 – *Academy Members Meeting, Akademie der Künste*, Hanseatenweg, Berlin, DE (Lecture)

2010 – *Credits*, Jagiellonian University & HISK, Wyspiański Pavilion, Cracow, PL (Panel discussion)
2008 – *Guest Lecture*, BA Drawing, KASK, School of Arts, Ghent, B
2008 – *Guest Lecture*, BA Painting, KASK, School of Arts, Ghent, B

AWARDS & GRANTS

2021 – Innovation Mechanism Grant, Flemish Community, B
2020 – Emergency Fellowship, Junge Akademie [Friends of the Akademie der Künste], Berlin, DE
2019 – Laureate (III Degree, Drawing), UNI Graphica, Krasnodar, RU
2017 – Artist Grant, Flemish Community, B
2016 – Laureate, Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts (KVAB), Brussels, B
2014 – Finalist, MAC International, Metropolitan Arts Centre, Belfast, UK
2014 – Artist Grant, Flemish Community, B
2013 – Artist Grant, Flemish Community, B
2012 – Artist Grant, Flemish Community, B
2011 – Fellowship, Junge Akademie, Akademie der Künste (AdK), Berlin, DE
2009 – Artist Grant, Flemish Community, B
2008 – Honorable Mention, Gaver Prize, Waregem, B
2007 – Award Recipient (Nomination), East-Flanders Culture Prize, Ghent, B
2006 – Laureate, E. Borst / J. Pipyn Prize, Ghent, B