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tu-sa 13-18h  
and by appointment

Robbert & Robbert  
Frank & Frank

## Narratives

16.7.2020 - 22.8.2020

opening July 12 2020 14.00-18.00h

### PRESS RELEASE

In anticipation of the exhibition Robbert&Frank told me a story. It was a story about the creation of a series of clay tablets, something that has occupied them in the last two years and which will also be featured in the exhibition.

Frank&Robbert first make a digital drawing to then create a three dimensional matrix of this drawing. With this matrix they punch a relief into the clay. When the drawing is punched in the clay, they colour the tablet with glazing and subsequently fire the clay.

To fire clay you need very high temperatures. In their tendency to do things themselves, Robbert&Frank made a pit and in this pit they stirred up a fire of more than one thousand degrees Celcius. They placed the clay tablets into the fire and every single one cracked by the shock of the extreme differences in temperature.

At the bottom of the pit there were some fire stones and by coincidence some twigs lay underneath these stones. Because the fire stones dissipated the heat very gradually, these twigs carbonised perfectly. Their plans were unsuccessful, yet an ancient drawing material had been accidentally rediscovered.

Representation is front and center in the work of Frank&Robbert. How do we see the world, how do we see ourselves and how do we show this to others? Just like with lxhxb this question is already addressed in the name that they have given themselves. In all official communication they are called Robbert&Frank Frank&Robbert. Written as if their names were a single word, yet also doubled and mirrored. They are two halves of a single entity and one that furthermore knows no hierarchy.

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**dxnxl**

Earlier this year Robbert&Frank have made step towards explaining the complete story of Frank&Robbert with the work *R&F F&R Cosmology 1.0*. Their first cosmology is a monumental wall drawing made for the solo-exhibition *Breadcrumbs* in Be-Part, Waregem. In this work Robbert&Frank use their rediscovered medium of charcoal to show the history of Frank&Robbert in their own unique visual language by connecting it with humanity's larger spiritual search.

For *Narratives* they expand upon this first monumental drawing. In this second version they connect the recent happenings surrounding the corona virus with the just as recent history of lxhxb.

The history of the gallery seemingly is one that is far removed from the headstrong path of Robbert&Frank, yet our paths have crossed a few times in the past.

The first time I met Frank&Robbert, they were seated one row in front of me on an airplane. Robbert, or Frank, said something about the philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein and I felt compelled to comment. No one has remembered my undoubtedly pompous remark, but it nevertheless is a salient detail to touch upon in the history of Robbert&Frank.

In the later years of his life Wittgenstein predominantly concerned himself with the limits of human expression. He was spurred on by a friend who challenged him to find the logical notation of a typical Italian hand gesture. What brought me into contact with Frank&Robbert was thus a shared interest in how one human being can convey something to another. In order to gain insight into these processes it's important to hark back to their most elementary forms.

The messages that Frank&Robbert give us are seldom large revelations. At times they are even somewhat banal and naive, like their slogan '*Go Away Sorrow of the World*'. The power of their work is that they keep on uncovering new ways to express these relatively simple comments, with which they continue to rediscover ways to connect themselves with their audience.

*This exhibition is made possible with the support of:*

Grensverleggers, regulation to support cultural collaboration between parties in Flanders, the Province of North-Brabant, the Province of Limburg and the Province of Zeeland



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