

HUBERTY
& BREYNE

Milan JESPERS

Solo Show
Vergogna



27.03.2025
> 30.03.2025

PARIS | Drawing Now

Carreau du Temple
4 rue Eugène Spuller, Paris 3^e

DRAWING NOW
PARIS

As part of the 2025 edition of the Drawing Now Paris contemporary art fair, the Huberty & Breyne gallery is hosting a solo show focusing on the work of Milan Jaspers – the second solo exhibition devoted to this talented young Belgian artist, and the first to be held in France.

Milan Jaspers (1992, Brussels) graduated from the ESA Saint-Luc, in Brussels, where he was enrolled on the comics programme. Drawing on the narrative dimension of the 9th art, a keen interest in history and the silent testimony of 19th-century photography, the artist explores the figurative bias of an era marked by the decline of spirituality and superstition and the emergence of a rational and industrial modernity.

Milan Jaspers develops his images in a subtle balancing act of revelation and restitution that derives from the shared vision of drawer and painter. Employing a watercolour palette true to the traditional sepia tints of early photographs, he also incorporates colourful motifs emblematic of our modern world. The manual manipulation of the artist's brush, which depends on patience and precision, acts here as a counterbalance to the revolutionary instantaneity of the photographic process, painting reflecting the contemporary importance of "taking one's time".



Milan Jaspers - *Gôkumon* - 2024 - Watercolor on paper - 14,6 x 14,6 cm - Signed back

This is how Jespers explains his approach: *"When I paint, I make my images look a little like photographs from historical, medical and anthropological archives – the sort of thing one might have seen in the 19th and early 20th centuries.*

I am constantly on the lookout for documents (photographs, literary motifs and other materials), collecting, linking, cross-referencing, decontextualising and recontextualising, and then reappropriating them through painting. I use watercolour in an unconventional way, adding layer on layer to give it a density that is rare for watercolour as a medium.

I borrow aspects of early photography such as the highly static pose, the sense of solemnity and the standard approach to centring and technical blurring. I apply them to my work while simultaneously integrating contemporary elements.

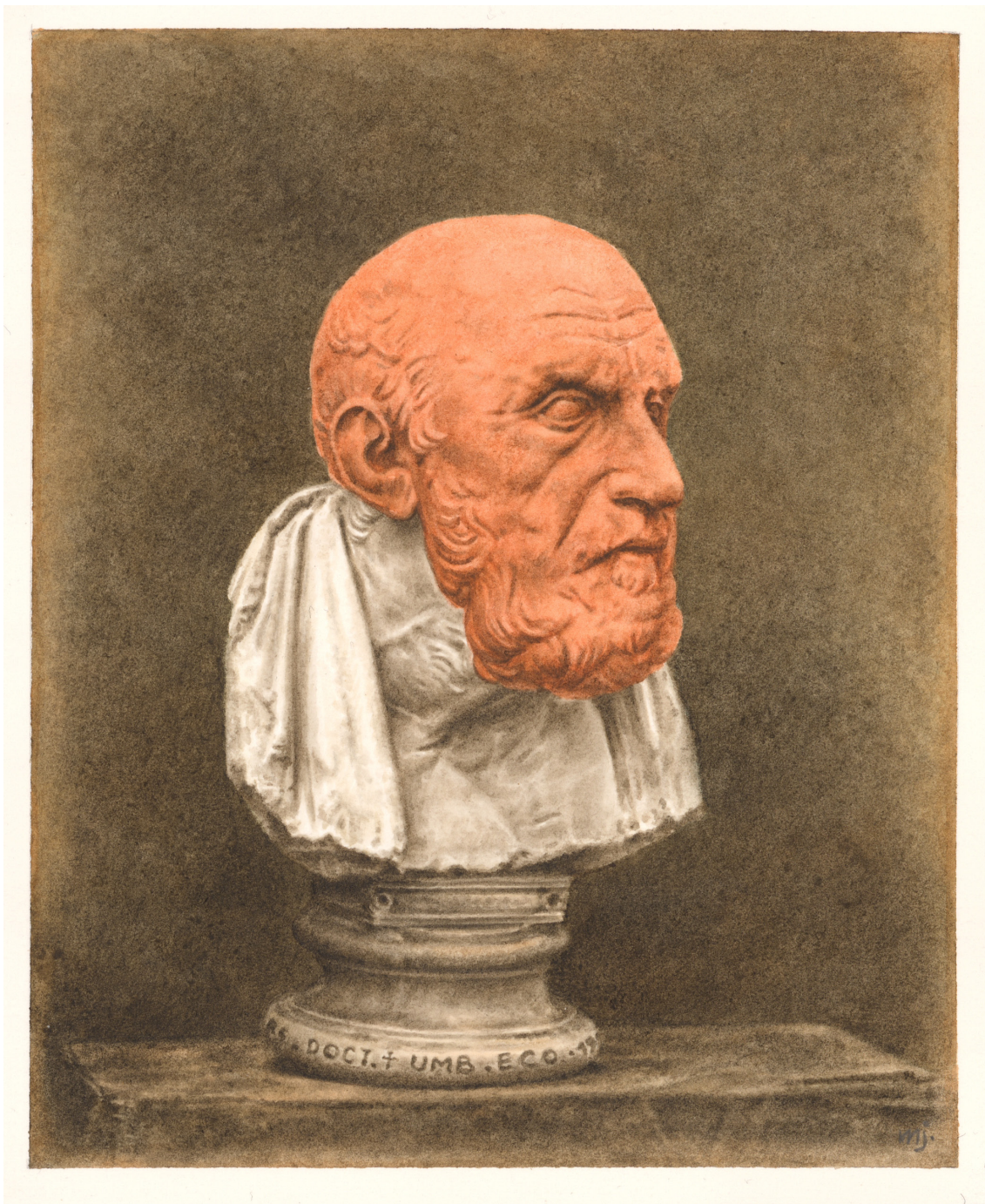
By associating and interpreting imagery in this way, I recreate something akin to the imaginary archives of a late-19th-century naturalist – a deliberately loose narrative inventory of images that sheds a different light on recent Western history, the way it represents bodies, its social and aesthetic conventions, its predatory policies, its relationship to Antiquity and to nature."

Drawing on old photographic records, and incorporating strange, ghostly figures from the past, Jespers' intimate subject matter (executed in watercolour) often shares the formal gravity of 19th-century photography. It is just such a relationship between intimacy and "photographic" representation that the artist seeks to explore in this collection of drawings produced between 2023 and 2025.

The first series – entitled *"Vergogna"* (derived from a Latin word meaning sense of modesty or shame) – is made up of four full-length portraits of seminaked men in a simple interior.



Milan Jespers - *Vergogna II* - 2024 - Watercolor on paper
52 x 41,5 cm - Signed bottom right



Milan Jaspers - *Buste d'un écrivain* - 2024 - Watercolor on paper - 15,3 x 12,5 cm - Signed bottom right

Heaven and Hell (1790), the visionary poet William Blake claimed that *"The road of excess leads to the palace of wisdom"* and in this section we see a series of figures lurking in the shadow of porcelain palaces, their tortured bodies swathed in heavy fabrics – figures linked to a decade of excesses, a decade of remorse, of cosmic voyages and black holes, of bile, anguish and shame.

Alcohol may have been one of the *"salutary and medicinal"* corrosives that Blake regarded as a requisite means of cleansing the doors of perception, thus enabling human beings to see things as they really are – in other words, infinite. Without necessarily being directly or closely linked to alcohol, Jaspers' drawings provide an opportunity to explore this extraordinary substance and the perspectives it has opened up through human creativity.



Milan Jaspers - *The Pig* - 2024 - Watercolor on paper
42,3 x 26,3 cm - Signed bottom right

Potential poison and antidote, alcohol – the title given to this series of small drawings of bottles, glasses and books – has obvious links with the pharmakón (φάρμακον) used by the oracles of Greek antiquity for its therapeutic properties and as a tool to sharpen their perceptions.

"Rivulets of wine filled the hollows carved by his spasming shoulders. Pig-faced stupor sheltered him under its protective wings and gazed at him lovingly", writes the Count of Lautréamont in Canto III of *Les Chants de Maldoror*, and the drawing entitled *"The Pig"* is an embodiment, in demi-god form, of shameful behaviours most of us would prefer to forget...

Milan Jaspers' offering for *Drawing Now* is a series of some twenty new drawings, in varying formats, that connect and collide with one another, encouraging us to look anew at our relationship with both the present and the past.

Milan JESPERS

Solo Show

Vergogna

EXHIBITION

From Tuesday 27 March
to Sunday 30 Mars 2025
11:00 a.m to 8.00 p.m (7.00pm Sunday)

DRAWING NOW PARIS

Stand : RDC C13
Carreau du Temple
4 rue Eugène Spuller, Paris 3^e

PRESS CONTACT

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HD visuals available on request
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HUBERTY & BREYNE

Huberty & Breyne is a contemporary art gallery specialising in original cartoon work. Operating out of Brussels and Paris under the direction of Alain Huberty and Marc Breyne, the gallery – which has been in existence for almost 30 years – represents both established and up-and-coming artists linked to, or inspired by, the 9th art.

Its exhibitions of original plates, paintings and sculptures champion contemporary art in all its guises and provide a platform for the crossover of different disciplines. A key reference point in the world of comic art, the Huberty & Breyne gallery offers collectors a rigorous selection of works by both household names and promising newcomers.

The gallery is closely involved with the contemporary art market scene and a contributor at major international fairs such as Brafa (Brussels Antiques & Fine Arts Fair), 1 – 54 London, Art Paris and Drawing Now. It occupies a 1,000m² exhibition space in Brussels, in place du Châtelain, and two further exhibition spaces in Paris, in avenue Matignon and rue Chapon.

Aside from running the gallery, Alain Huberty and Marc Breyne also advise auction houses regarding the sale of works of comic art.

BRUSSELS | Châtelain

33 place du Châtelain
1050 Brussels
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Wednesday > Saturday
11.00 am – 7.00 pm

PARIS | Matignon

36 avenue Matignon
75008 Paris
+33 (0)1 40 28 04 71

Tuesday > Saturday
11.00 am – 7.00 pm

PARIS | Chapon

19 rue Chapon
75003 Paris
+33 (0)1 71 32 51 98

Wednesday > Friday
1.30 pm - 7.00 pm
Saturday
12 pm - 7.00 pm

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