

# ANDREA FESTA FINE ART

Presents

## THE HIDDEN HISTORY

Curated by **Domenico de Chirico**

Opening 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – 12am / 8pm

7<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021

ANDREA FESTA FINE ART – LUNGOTEVERE DEGLI ALTOVITI, 1, 00186 RM

Andrea Festa is pleased to announce the very first solo show in Italy of **Tom Poelmans** (b.1984 – Belgium) titled “The Hidden History” curated by Domenico de Chirico.

Whenever Tom Poelmans starts to paint, he is flooded with a rather innocent and spontaneous thought that he can freely paint whatever he wants, through his floating brushstrokes on the canvas. Each of his creation inevitably faces that illusion of free will that he himself claims. The final painting is undoubtedly the result of this struggle. It is a journey into the author's mind, based on infinite possibilities, a process that begins with a drawing and then ends with a decidedly unpredictable pictorial image. His work shows an exceptional and intricate heterogeneity, with a dreamlike vocation rich in symbols, allegories and metaphors, characterized both by precise compositions and by confident and material brushstrokes, covering every inch of the surfaces he uses. Poelmans becomes an omniscient narrator, metaphorically impersonating a sort of fusion between the famous works of Calvino "The Cloven Viscount", "The baron in the Trees" and "The Nonexistent Knight", grappling with imaginative and empathic images of timeless stories: and this is how "The Hidden History" was born. To paraphrase Italo Calvino, Poelmans “climbs the trees of the home garden and promise never to come down again in his entire life”: it is the metaphor of a personal and coherent path of research, to gradually find his own dimension, determined by taste for irony. The creative structure is now totally abandoned to the fairy tale, the memories appear as an opportunity to learn about world and the narration proceeds according to two levels of reading: the first one, of immediate fruition, and the second one, rich in allegories and symbolism, in which there are numerous points of reflection that oscillate between reality and illusion, ideology and ethics, and so on.

**Tom Poelmans:** (b.1984) Antwerp, Belgium. He lives and works in Antwerp. He studied at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Antwerp (2010).

*Group exhibitions:* Rodolphe Janssen, Brussels (2020); Jack Barrett Gallery, New York (2020); Tatjana Pieters, Gent (2019); Arti, Amsterdam (2019); De Studio, Antwerp (2018); De Ruimte, Gent (2018-2016); Veilinghuis Bernaerts, Antwerp (2018); Souterrain, Antwerp (2018); Het Bos, Antwerp (2017); Base Alpha Galerie, Antwerp (2017-2016-2015); Jean-Francois Kaiser Galerie, Strasbourg (2016); CC, Maasmechelen' (2016); Ecole Supérieure d'Art du Nord-Pas- de-Calais, Tourcoing (2015).

*Solo/Duo exhibitions:* Rodolphe Janssen, Brussel (2020); White Whale Gallery, Antwerp (2019); The Cabin, Los Angeles (2019); SecondRoom, Antwerp (2019); DE GARAGE, Mechelen (2018); Kusseneers Gallery, Brussels (2018); DMW-Artspace, Antwerp (2017); Base Alpha Galerie, Antwerp (2016-2014-2013); Stadslimiet, Antwerp (2014); Souterrain, Antwerp (2012); CJK, Gent (2011); Gallery Crenation, Brugge (2010).