

# GLADSTONE GALLERY

"Kasper Bosmans at WIELS," *Art Viewer*, June 20, 2022

## *Art Viewer*

### Kasper Bosmans at WIELS

June 20, 2022



**Artist:** Kasper Bosmans

**Exhibition title:** Husbandry

**Curated by:** Zoë Gray

**Venue:** WIELS, Brussels, Belgium

**Date:** February 25 – August 14, 2022

**Photography:** all images copyright and courtesy of the artist and WIELS, Brussels

Kasper Bosmans is a storyteller. Fascinated by tales that resonate across time, he unpicks their threads and playfully weaves them into new stories. Always starting from specific examples – whether an obscure anecdote, artisanal recipe, or current news item – Bosmans employs local, vernacular traditions to speak about global questions. Mixing references from different periods and cultures as a way to tease out their similarities, he highlights our commonality at a time of increasing polarisation.

His works take the form of bold murals, installations, sculptures and his signature *Legends*. These small painted wooden panels fuse formal traditions such as heraldic shields or illuminated manuscripts with an iconography culled from children's books or digital logos. Avoiding didactic explanation, the *Legends* offer enigmatic clues to Bosmans' thought process, while existing as artworks in their own right.

Bosmans is intrigued by the possibilities offered by diverse techniques and materials and the exhibition contains several new productions, in bronze, enamel, glass and sand that he has made together with specialist artisans. This ambitious and playful exhibition reveals the scope and humour of Bosmans' original practice.

The exhibition adopts the title *Husbandry*, a term used to designate care a cultivation, the rearing of animals or growing of crops. At the intersection of

nature and culture, husbandry is also the good stewardship of a household and Bosmans' references are often domestic. He is particularly interested in history "as seen from the kitchen." Here he presents a new series of enamel panels that are abstract portraits of friends whom he asked to count the number of holes in their colanders, taking the colander as a metaphor for sorting and separating.

Bosmans has previously created sand paintings, appropriating the Belgian folk tradition of making decorative patterns with coloured sand in or around the house (particularly celebrated in his hometown of Lommel). His new *Sand Painting*, made for this exhibition, depicts a spider's web scattered with jewels.

Animals feature prominently in the works included here, always in relation to their cataloguing or controlling by mankind. *Bird Nose Count* takes as its starting point the work of the Dutch 17th-century painter Melchior d'Hondecoeter. His depictions of nature were influenced by the 'discovery' of new species during colonial expansion and brought together collections of birds that could not possibly co-exist in reality. Bosmans' large enamel wall piece reproduces to scale the eggs of all the birds depicted by d'Hondecoeter.

Another new work is *Wolf Corridor*, taking its name from the narrow strips of "wilderness" left between urban developments, designed not for the recreation or entertainment of people, so that wolves might again roam the Lowlands. This glass frieze featuring the repeated figure of a running wolf is interrupted by bronze scissors, cutting the corridor.

Running like a pink thread through the exhibition are references to queer culture. This takes various forms, the suggestively titled *Boy Butter*, – which refers to family stories of butter smuggling while also hinting at sexual activity.

Kasper Bosmans was included in the group exhibition *Un-Scene III* at WIELS in 2015 and was a WIELS artist in residence in 2016. Kasper Bosmans was born in 1990 in Lommel (BE). He lives and works between Brussels and Amsterdam. He studied at HISK in Ghent and at the Royal Academy for Fine Arts in Antwer ^ Recent institutional solo exhibitions include: *Wolf Corridor* at De Pont, Tilburg

(2021); Poultry Yards & Metres at Eerste Kamer, The Hague (2021); A Perfect Shop-front at Fondazione Arnaldo Pomodoro, Milan (2021); Four at Gladstone 64, New York (2020); Chip Log at Gladstone Gallery, New York (2018); Model Garden at Gladstone Gallery, Brussels (2017); The Words and Days (mud gezaaid, free range) at De Hallen, Haarlem (2017); Specimen Days at S.M.A.K., Ghent; Decorations at Kunstinstituut Melly, formerly known as Witte de With, Rotterdam (2017); and Loot, Soil, and Cleanliness at CIAP, Hasselt (2016).



Installation view, *Kasper Bosmans: Husbandry*, WIELS, 2022. Photo: Gunnar Meier



Installation view, *Kasper Bosmans: Husbandry*, WIELS, 2022.  
Photo: Hugard & Vanoverschelde



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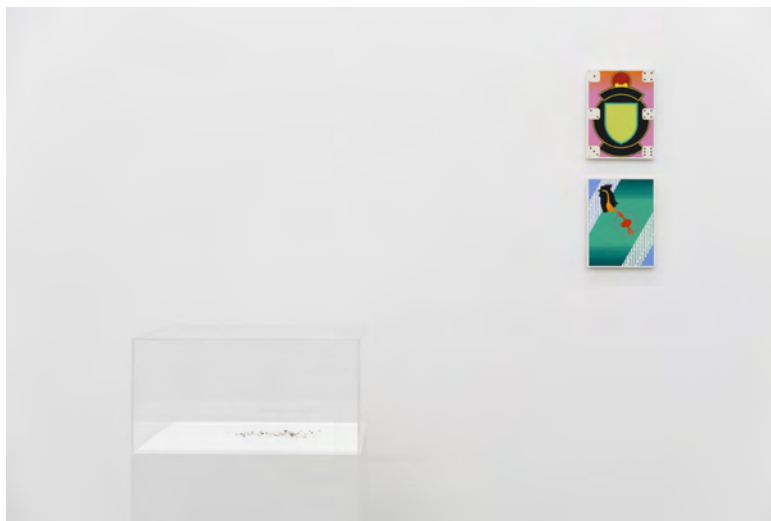
Installation view, *Kasper Bosmans: Husbandry*, WIELS, 2022.  
Photo: Hugard & Vanoverschelde



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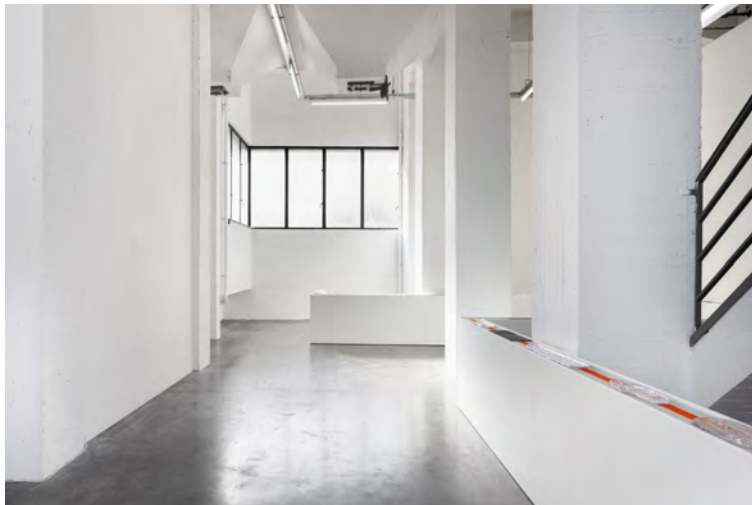
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Kasper Bosmans, Legend: American Picket Fence and the Pink Thread , 2021. Gouache and silverpoint on poplar panel. 28 x 21 cm. Courtesy of the artist and Gladstone Gallery

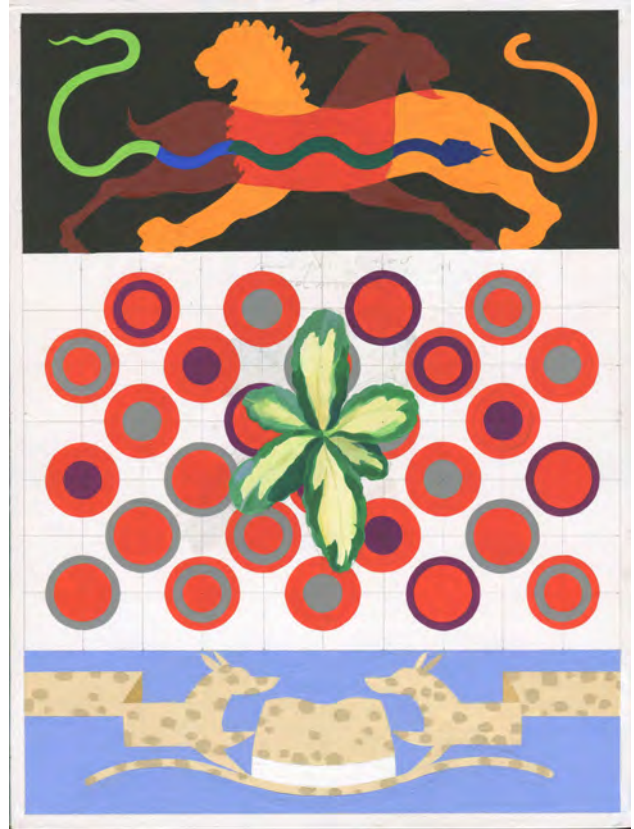


Kasper Bosmans, Legend (Parlour & J.Zelf) , 2021. Gouache and silver point on poplar panel, part of a diptych, 28 x 21 cm each. Private collection, Amsterdam





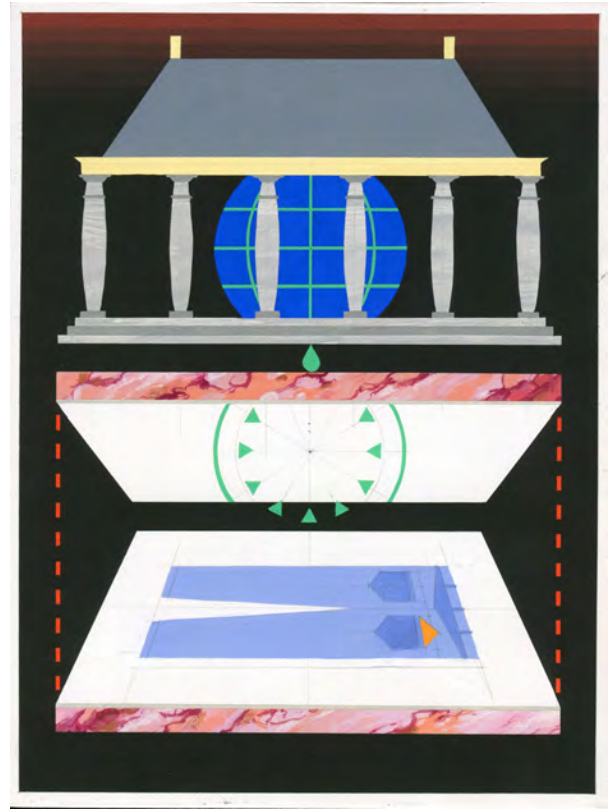
Kasper Bosmans, Legend (Parlour & J.Zelf) , 2021. Gouache and silver point on poplar panel, part of a diptych, 28 x 21 cm each. Private collection, Amsterdam



Kasper Bosmans, Legend: Husbandry , 2022, Gouache and silver point on poplar panel, 28 x 21 cm. Courtesy of the artist and Gladstone Gallery



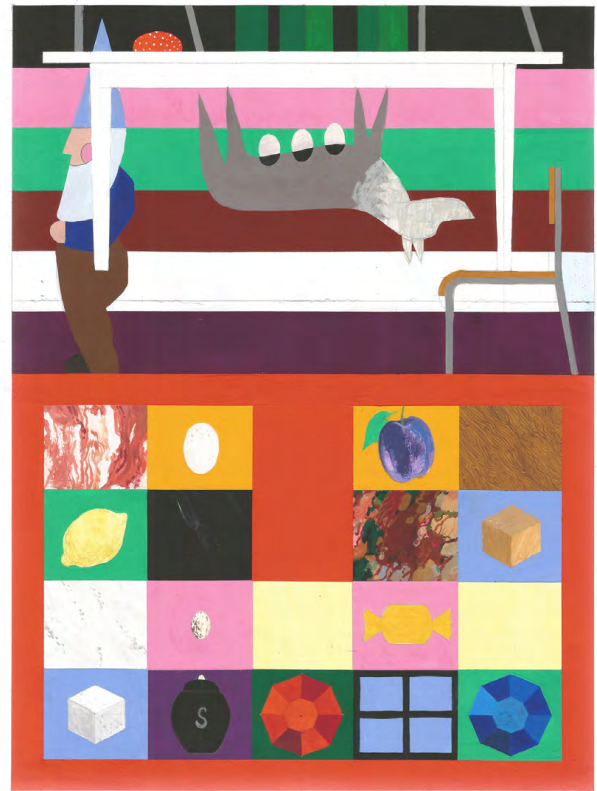
Kasper Bosmans, Legend: Bird nose count ,  
2022, Gouache and silver point on poplar panel,  
28 x 21 cm. Courtesy of the artist and Gladstone  
Gallery



Kasper Bosmans, Legend: Pressed Flowers ,  
2022, Gouache and silver point on poplar  
panel, 28 x 21 cm. Courtesy of the artist and  
Gladstone Gallery



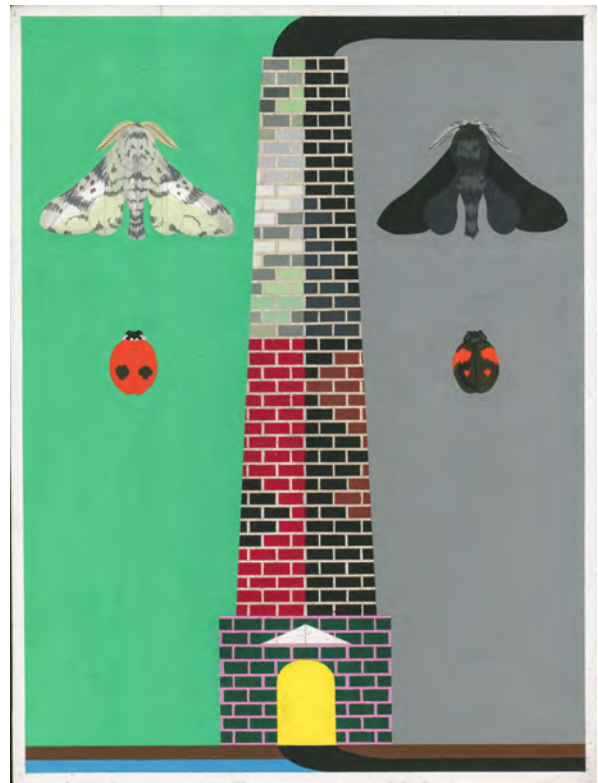
Kasper Bosmans, Legend: Nipples, 2022, Gouache and silver point on poplar panel, 28 x 21 cm. Courtesy of the artist and Gladstone Gallery



Kasper Bosmans, Legend: Dwarf parade table, 2022, Gouache and silver point on poplar panel, 28 x 21 cm. Courtesy of the artist and Gladstone Gallery



Kasper Bosmans, Legend: Husbandry (No More Wings), 2022, Gouache and silver point on poplar panel, 28 x 21 cm. Courtesy of the artist and Gladstone Gallery



Kasper Bosmans, Legend: Husbandry (Industrial Camouflage), 2022, Gouache and silver point on poplar panel, 28 x 21 cm. Courtesy of the artist and Gladstone Gallery

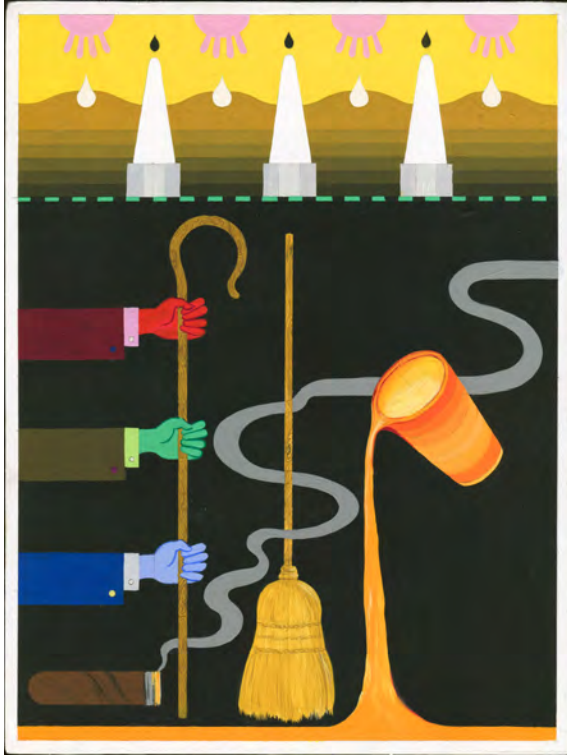




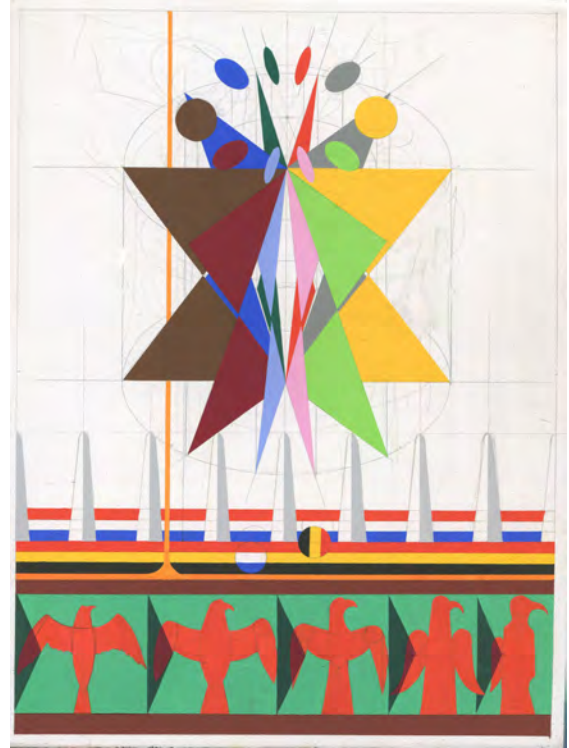
Kasper Bosmans, Legend: Home is dear, home is best, 2022, Gouache and silver point on poplar panel, 28 x 21 cm. Courtesy of the artist and Gladstone Gallery



Kasper Bosmans, Legend: Husbandry (Jumping Gent), 2022, Gouache and silver point on poplar panel, 28 x 21 cm. Courtesy of the artist and Gladstone Gallery



Kasper Bosmans, Legend: Boy Butter, 2021, Gouache and silver point on poplar panel, part of triptych, 28 x 21 cm each. Courtesy of the artist and Gladstone Gallery



Kasper Bosmans, Legend: Colour chosen by a kind person, 2022, Gouache and silver point on poplar panel, 28 x 21 cm. Courtesy of the artist and Gladstone Gallery





Kasper Bosmans, Switchboard (Colander and J.Zelf), 2020. Mdf, wax, glass, textile, framed photo, aluminium, 173 x 94 x 75cm. Courtesy of the artist and Gladstone Gallery. Image: Fabrice Schneider