

Curatorial and Artist Intention Statements of SUAMI DEKKER

For her IB Visual Arts Exhibition

CURATORIAL

Through my art, I explore myself, I am trying to form a connection with myself and my body, but also not only be limited to myself, I am trying to understand the universe around me, and my own subconscious.

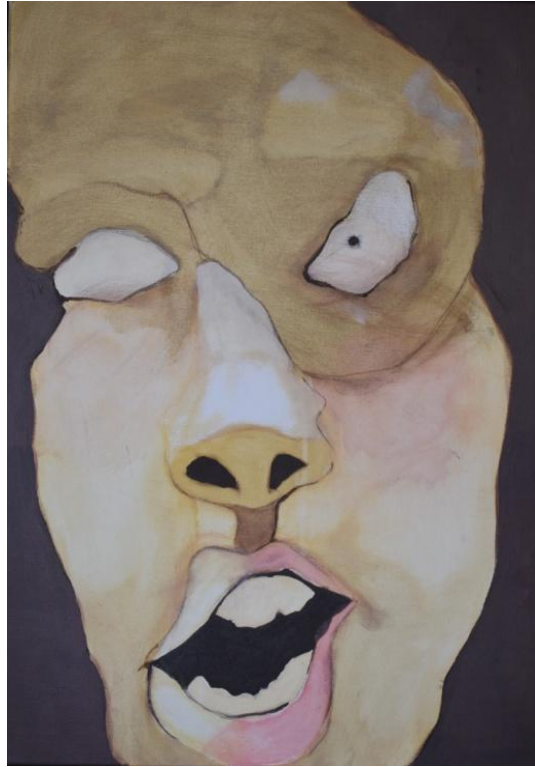
I like to be vulnerable, and to show my thoughts, in a way it is a catharsis or a confession of the different faces that I have, and that everyone explores in their own way when they are honest to themselves. These contradictions that I find in myself, I challenge myself to shed light on, and in the process I discover more about myself.

The media I enjoy to use lately are mixed media works with acrylic paints and pastel or charcoal on big canvases. I discovered that these are the ones that allow me to express myself more freely, and pastel gives me a large range of colors and vibrancy which is more direct than anything else I have used.

The first couple of works in my exhibition have to do with bodies, and distortion; I was very influenced by artists like Francis Bacon, Jenny Saville and Egon Schiele. I tried to depict the discomfort of a body, and the disconnection between the mind and the body, like dissociation. With my work *Vulnerability* it shows this disconnect of looking down at a body, and seeing it as a separate, and forcing the viewer into that position. With later works, I express my need to reconnect with my inner child, as well as the relationship with my mother and the influence she has on my unconscious. I started becoming more influenced by African art, and more expressionist painters - I started working on larger canvases and in a more emotional way, *Womb of Consciousness* I wanted to express the immense power of the body, the female body. I felt a very hot feeling, like fire, and my stomach felt heavy. The woman has no arms and no hair, she seems like a vessel, and she is exploding with a ray of light, something destructive, like a reckless awakening, full of energy. *Ego Death* is a piece that actually personifies the many faces of me, and the contradictions, and the darkness and selfishness. I am trying to overcome it. Painting helps me to manifest feelings and to let them go, I feel that my paintings also connect in this way, threads of myself.

I chose to place them in a specific order, because I feel that it shows my own development, from body disconnect, vulnerability, to the inner child, to the ego, femininity and catharsis.

Studio Work 1:



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| Title: | Urlo |
| Size: | 70 x 50 cm |
| Media: | Acrylics on canvas |
| Intention Statement (500 characters max): | This piece was made to show a tortured scream, shaking the face so much it becomes distorted, in a caricature way. It is like the lines of the paper are falling from the impact of the scream, and the face itself is cracking and in the process of distorting itself even more, and eventually detaching from the canvas. |

Studio Work 2:



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| Title: | Vulnerability |
| Size: | 100 x 99 cm |
| Media: | Acrylics on canvas |
| Intention Statement (500 characters max): | This work is made with the point of view of the person who is inside the painting my body from the top as if looking down. I wanted to express my feeling of vulnerability by exposing myself in a way that only I see myself. |

Studio Work 3:



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| Title: | Body in movement, distortion |
| Size: | 100 x 70 cm |
| Media: | oil paint on canvas |
| Intention Statement (500 characters max): | This work is my body, only more abstracted. The feeling of this painting could be described as looking down from your body, and watching the surroundings disappear, like floating and detaching from the reality. The background is black, to add to the isolation of the body. |

Studio Work 4:



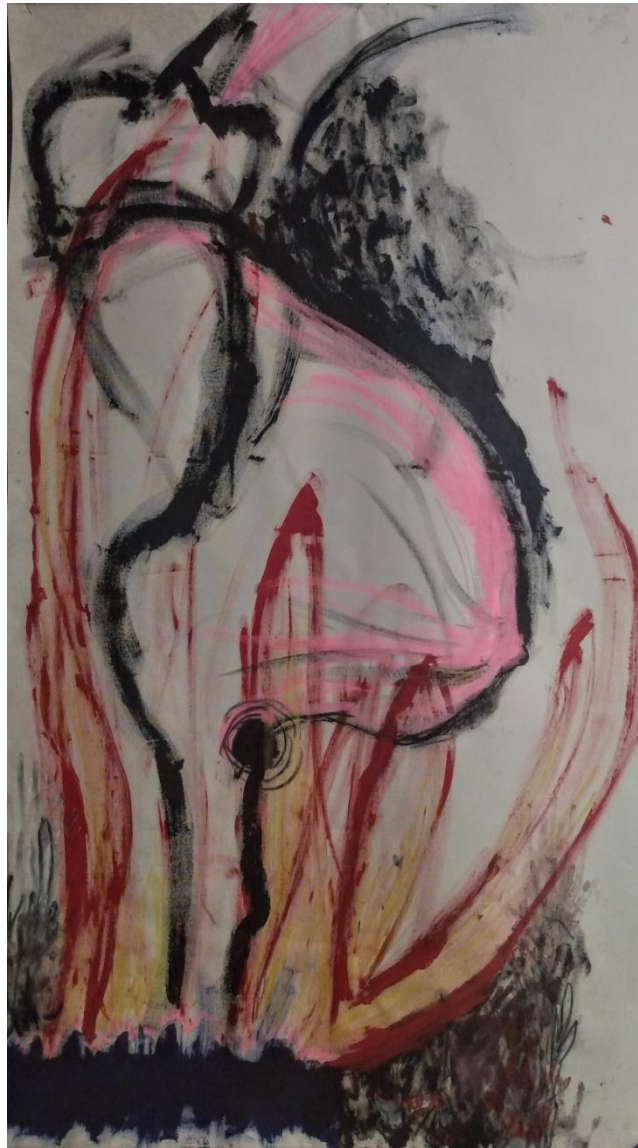
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| Title: | I Want To Be A Child |
| Size: | 124 x 173 cm |
| Media: | Mixed media (acrylics and pastel) on cardboard |
| Intention Statement (500 characters max): | This piece is a painting of the body of a woman lying on her side, with an umbilical cord still attached. I have heard many interpretations of this one, for example that she is pregnant, or inside out pregnancy, which could be. For me, this umbilical cord symbolises the inner child that I am trying to find again, through puberty, and I play around with feelings of returning to the womb and the relationship of mother and daughter. |

Studio Work 5:



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| Title: | Ego Death |
| Size: | 260x150 cm |
| Media: | Mixed media (Oil and charcoal) on canvas |
| Intention Statement (500 characters max): | This piece is a self portrait, including me and the many faces that I observe in myself, I express the need to try and overcome myself, and and all the faces burst out, my consciousness is trying to become one with the universe, but the ego stands in the way. |

Studio Work 6:



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| Title: | Womb Of Consciousness |
| Size: | 260x150 cm |
| Media: | Mixed media (acrylic paints and pastels) on canvas |
| Intention Statement (500 characters max): | This piece is of a pregnant woman, with fire surrounding her and a pink plasma coming through her belly and shooting out of the mouth. It is a violent awakening, in a powerful way. |

Studio Work 7:



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| Title: | Noise |
| Size: | 126 x 135 cm |
| Media: | Mixed media (acrylic paints and pastels) on cardboard |
| Intention Statement (500 characters max): | This piece is more emotional, I drew myself puking to show the physical feeling of being suffocated, I am not sure whether the “noise” and vomit is going out or in. The red dot that is placed is symbolizing my thyroid condition, but also at the same time something more metaphysical blocking my speech, or the feeling of a ball in the throat. I am trying to unravel the lumps, and it becomes a violent catharsis. |

Studio Work 8:



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| Title: | Girl and Moon (diptych) |
| Size: | 38 x 58 cm (38 x 29 cm each) |
| Media: | <i>Pastel on hard paper</i> |
| Intention Statement (500 characters max): | This diptych is a drawing of a girl looking up at the moon. You can see the shifting of the head which is the movement. The light of the moon is the most important part in this one; it is about the self exploration of the feminine and the connection with the moon. The second drawing is a more obstructed version, still showing movement, it is expressing my feelings toward the moon, shooting out glowing fibers of light, connecting with the universe in simple ways, from my terrace. |