

# LUSTWARANDE

## Platform for Contemporary Sculpture

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tilburg, Netherlands, 20 June 2022

## GODHEAD – IDOLS IN TIMES OF CRISIS

### 12<sup>th</sup> EDITION LUSTWARANDE

26 June – 2 October 2022

Park De Oude Warande, Tilburg, Netherlands

### GODHEAD – IDOLS IN TIMES OF CRISIS

Now, in the wake of anti-racism demonstrations in the United States and Europe, with statues of historically charged figures daubed with paint, toppled from their pedestals and removed from city squares, renewed reflection on the concept of 'idol', in a broad sense, is called for.

The idol (from the Greek eidolon, meaning 'image') was developed to express myth and faith in human form. However, over the course of history, devotion has increasingly given way to secular veneration. The idol gradually came to be worshipped and admired as an aesthetic, autonomous object. The erection of statues and monuments in the public space is a result of this shift. As the power of the Church waned and secular power increasingly took its place, statues and monuments in squares and parks were not only objects of worship but also a strong representation and perpetuation of the ideology of the ruling power.

While the new iconoclasm shows that images of idols can lead to great division, the strongest power of idols in general is still to promote connection and solidarity. The images of religious figures, such as Jesus on the cross, Mary and Buddha, are indisputably the most powerful in this respect. The strength and the beneficial effect of idols is particularly evident in times of crisis and disaster, when humans are most aware of their vulnerability. At such moments, the idol provides hope to humankind, offering support and comfort. This theme is very relevant in a world where multiple existential questions compete for our attention.

**GODHEAD – Idols in Times of Crisis** investigates the power of contemporary figurative and abstract sculpture as idols by presenting a connected yet very diverse group of works which, to a greater or lesser extent, consciously or unconsciously, refer to the tradition of devotional sculpture, the statue, the monument, the totem, the amulet and the talisman, all in their own individual way.

**GODHEAD – Idols in Times of Crisis** does not aim to offer solutions for the problematic relationship that has arisen with historical idols, but tries instead to make the contemporary viewer aware of the power of the idol, which connects humanity through times and lets mythologies intertwine with the present, where belief in higher powers and forces is still abundant.

**GODHEAD – Idols in Times of Crisis** will present a select sample of contemporary idols, an alternative scenario for the empty pedestals that are emerging, a scenario that can offer new meaning, hope and support to the public space. Presenting these sculptures in the public space, or even better, in a woodland setting, where humans, nature and art come together, lends them greater strength. For the viewer, these works may evoke associations with primal images, such as the Venus von Willendorf and the Lionman, even though each depicts ideas and ideals of the modern day in its own way.

**Participating artists:** Alma Allen (US), Evgeny Antufiev (RU), Marieke Bolhuis (NL), Gisela Colón (US), Kim Dacres (US), Hans Josephsohn (CH), Susanne Ring (DE), Lukas Schmenger (DE), Henk Visch (NL) and Not Vital (CH).

Curator: Chris Driessen, artistic director Lustwarande

### LUSTWARANDE

**LUSTWARANDE – Platform for Contemporary Sculpture** annually organizes internationally trendsetting exhibitions of contemporary sculpture at De Oude Warande park in Tilburg, one of the best-preserved Baroque woodland gardens in the Netherlands.

### BRIEF ENCOUNTERS '22

In addition to the group exhibition two editions of **BRIEF ENCOUNTERS** are staged, each one featuring three artists, who present unique event sculptures, that can only be experienced during the course of a single afternoon. **BRIEF ENCOUNTERS '22** will take place on 10 July (Caz Egelie (NL), Joris Roosen (NL) and Mette Sterre (NL)) and on 4 September (buren (BE), Clédat & Petitpierre (FR) and Julian Weber (DE)).

### LUSTWARANDE

Visiting address: park De Oude Warande, Bredaseweg 441, Tilburg.

Tickets are available at the ticket desk (PIN only), open daily from 11.30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### Note for editors

For more information, interview requests and other requests, please contact us via [info@lustwarande.org](mailto:info@lustwarande.org)



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