


Sammy  
Slabbinck  
Surreality  
Check





# Sammy Slabbinck Surreality Check



*The Night Owl* – digital – 2015

# preface

## Geert Verbeke on the Art of Collage

The art of collage in Belgium dates back to around 1917. Paul Joostens (1889-1960), our only Dadaist, was not only a pioneer in the art of collage during the 1920s, but also an artist who remained loyal to collages till his dying day, even though his work received no recognition during his lifetime. This is typical of the art of collage. Collage, until today, has often been considered a less-worthy form of art. It is only work with paper, these are only rough drafts, sketches with cut-up or torn-up posters, which is *not done*, according to many collectors.

If I look at our collection, I see an immense upsurge of collage art in the years between 1940 and 1960. During this period, many painters, sculptors and photographers used collage and assemblage techniques in their oeuvre. In the artwork of the period we find photos, images from journals (at first mostly in black & white), newspapers and magazines, including maps, old posters, packaging cartons, textiles, old engravings, postcards, sticky tape, stamps, and even money.

At the end of the 1970s and during the 1980s there was revived interest in paintings; the production of collage art dwindled and the purchase of collages by collectors reached a low point. However, since the beginning of the 21st century, there has been renewed interest by young artists to use the medium of collage. Some prefer the traditional method of cutting and pasting. Others work with new media, such as Photoshop.

I met Sammy for the first time in 2013 at a collage-recycling exhibition organised by *KUNST WERKT*. One of the artists selected to participate in the exhibition, he regretfully was not the final winner. His first collages were created in 2012 and he did not have to wait long for recognition. Now, five years later, a great deal has been achieved and for good reasons. His work is perplexing and sometimes melancholic. It reminds me of artists such as Line Ducerf and Robert Geenens from the 1950s and 1960s. In his collages, I see a well-considered construction, a world different from our daily life, yet one that leaves no room for chance. I see utmost concentration and precision in the way the images come together in a technical process, as if that's the way it was meant to be. I look forward with anticipation to his future work.

**Geert Verbeke** — Founder of the Verbeke Foundation



Baroque Bodies, 2011, ontwerp Joris Kritis & Jube Paeters

Boxed – digital – 2012

Pigeon Ranger – digital – 2013





*The Gang* – digital – 2013





*El Boxeador* – handcut original – 2014



Extended range CdS meter

Electric eye in the lens mount

Built-in retracting lens hood

Fully automatic exposure

Parallax and field-of-view correcting viewfinder



Picture This - digital - 2013







*Space to Play* – digital – 2016











*Before a gala evening, Mrs. Post pauses in her Palm Beach home*





*Instrumental – digital – 2015*