ENG

Jaap van den Ende - *Active Landscapes*

11 April - 10 May, 2025

Jaap van den Ende, Waterval, procesmatige ordening, 2024, oil on linen, 3 parts, 90 x 150 cm

'Behind observable reality lies a web of processes and laws.' This thought has been the starting point for Jaap van den Ende's (Delft, 1944) paintings from the beginning of his career until today. AKINCI is proud to present van den Ende's solo exhibition *Active Landscapes,* with a combination of new and old works.

The exhibition *Active Landscapes* includes van den Ende's most recent series of works. The play between figuration and abstraction is central. This time the theme is landscapes formed by natural processes of creation and decay. Nature is the best example of how underlying systems continue to change and evolve. Van den Ende shows the diversity of nature by depicting its extremes; elemental primal landscapes that manifest themselves in vast plains, high mountain peaks and gushing waterfalls.

The paintings in this series consist of three joined canvases, a figurative canvas flanked by two systematically created abstractions. The abstractions consist entirely of variants of what van den Ende calls 'active quadrangles'. There are no perfect squares anywhere on the canvases, only all possible variations of a quadrangle. In this way, van den Ende suggests movement. The two outer canvases are not identical, although there are many similarities. The subtle differences between the two abstract representations refer to the process of constant change in nature. In his very last works, he sought total abstraction with complex paintings based on landscapes. Despite his long and impressive career, van den Ende continues to reinvent himself, as this exhibition shows.

Jaap van den Ende gained international recognition for his abstract paintings of the 1960s and 1970s. In line with the basic painting and conceptual art established at the time, his early work was characterised by cool, geometric compositions and abstract colour research. In the 1980s he gradually introduced figuration into his paintings, and from the late 1990s he juxtaposed figuration and abstraction within a single painting. In the most recent series of works, figuration continues to play an important role. However, his current working method remains closely linked to the methodical approach he adopted almost 60 years ago.

The works in the exhibition are also included in the recently published oeuvre catalogue *tegenstelling en samenhang (contrast and coherence)*, dedicated to Jaap van den Ende, with beautiful documentation and texts by four authors (Antoon Melissen, Hendrik van Leeuwen, Judith de Bruijn and Renée Steenbergen) describing the development of his oeuvre over almost six decades. The publication is published by Waanders Uitgevers and is also available at the gallery.

Biography

Jaap van den Ende (1944, Delft, The Netherlands) studied at the Koninklijke Academie voor Beeldende Kunst in The Hague. His rich oeuvre is to be found in various collections, including the Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, Städtisches Museum Abteiberg, Mönchengladbach; Museum Bochum, Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam; Gemeentemuseum Den Haag; Museum De Lakenhal, Leiden; CODA Museum, Apeldoorn; Rijksdienst Verspreide Kunstvoorwerpen, Den Haag; Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam; Het Prinsenhof, Delft; and Stedelijk Museum Schiedam. He recently had a group show at Museum unter Tage, Bochum (2023) and exhibited with Ger Dekkers, Jan Dibbets, and Ger van Elk in the show Broken Landscapes at Situation Kust in Bochum (2014). Other exhibitions were held at Musée des Beaux-Arts, Tourcoing, FR (2001) Städtische Galerie, Nordhorn (1984), Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam (1982), Galerijs Sucremene Umjetnosti, Zagreb (1980), and repeatedly at Het Prinsenhof, Delft; Stedelijk Museum Schiedam; De Lakenhal, Leiden; Haags Gemeente Museum, and Parts Project, The Hague. Van den Ende has written various books about his vision on art and his personal practice. He lives and works in Delft.

AKINCI is proud to have worked with Jaap van den Ende since 1989.