

ADO HAMELRYCK BIOGRAPHY

***1941 Halle, BE — † 2024 Genk, BE**

Ado Hamelryck (Halle, November 2, 1941 – Genk, October 5, 2024) was a visual artist in search of all the colors of black. This deliberate choice was fundamental to his pursuit of pure images and artistic purification. Over the course of his practice, he developed a distinctive signature—both literally and figuratively. The application of black paint, ink, or material was executed through repetitive, rhythmic, and meditative gestures. Letter-like forms or meaningless signs filled the surface. Through an almost endless sequence of movements, a purified image emerged—the artwork—wherein the meaningless acquired meaning.

Hamelryck studied at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Brussels and the Higher Institute for Fine Arts in Antwerp. In 1967, he relocated to Genk, where he became one of the founding faculty members of SHIVKV (Municipal Higher Institute for Visual Communication and Design). Until his retirement, he trained numerous generations of artists and graphic designers, particularly in (life) drawing.

His artistic career includes solo exhibitions in Brussels (BOZAR, Atelier 340), Antwerp (I.C.C., Galerie XXI), Ghent (Association for the Museum of Contemporary Art), Liège (Musée d'Art Moderne), Hasselt (Provincial Museum, CIAP, Cultural Centre Hasselt), Genk (FLACC, C-mine), Lanaken, Amsterdam (De Brakke Grond), The Hague, Maastricht, and many more—alongside extensive participation in group exhibitions both nationally and internationally. His work is featured in various publications, including *Art in Belgium after 1945* by Karel Geirlandt, and the 2011 monograph *Not One Black, but Twenty-Seven Blacks, I Assure You*.

Hamelryck received several accolades, including commendations at the Prix Jeune Peinture Belge (1961 and 1962), recognition from the Flemish Community (1986), and the title of Knight in the Order of Leopold II (1988). He held the honorary title of lecturer at LUCA School of Arts.

His work is included in the collections of MuZEE Ostend, M HKA, University of Antwerp, the Province of Limburg, the Flemish Community, the French Community, the National Bank of Belgium, KBC Bank, and numerous private collections.

In 2023, the non-profit organization HAMELRYCK ART vzw was founded by his son Arend Hamelryck and Arend's wife, Diana Zaat. The foundation is committed to creating an inventory of Ado Hamelryck's oeuvre and documenting his career as a professional visual artist. Through this initiative, HAMELRYCK ART vzw aims to preserve and secure the legacy of this significant body of work for future generations.

KNOWN EXHIBITIONS

"Onderhuids" at Gallery Sofie Van den Bussche (date not specified, noted as his first solo exhibition)
Brussels (BOZAR, Atelier 340)
Antwerp (I.C.C., Galerij XXI) - Ghent (Association for the Museum of Contemporary Art)
Liège (Musée d'Art Moderne)
Hasselt (Provincial Museum, CIAP, ccHA)
Genk (FLACC, C-mine)
Amsterdam (Brakke Grond)
"Nothing Really Ends" at Kube Gallery, Villa (14/03/2025 - 04/05/2025)
"Nothing Really Ends" MAD Art Gallery, Poznań (29/08/2025 – 11/10/2025)
"27 Shades of Silence" Mad Art Gallery, Warsaw (19/09/2025 – 11/ 10/2025)

Ado Hamelryck is represented by Uitstalling Art Gallery since 2025