

ARTIST BIO

Ralf Kokke, (b. 1989, Rotterdam, The Netherlands) lives and works in Dordrecht The Netherlands.

Kokke was born to a family of dockworkers in Rotterdam Zuid. An almost separate class of people — within a practically closed-off social circuit — trapped between a 40-hour working week and a forced position of humility that leaves little or no room for individual contemplation, reflection or diversity.

The figures in Ralf Kokke's paintings are always bent and rugged. You can tell how years of hard manual work has itself manifested physically and psychologically. In this respect, he feels connected to painters such as Co Westerik, Frits Van Den Berghe, Constant Permeke and Max Beckmann. Kokke's paintings often depict figures who are stuck in a specific structure from which they want to escape but fail to. From the beginning to the very end of their lives, they are unable to escape the yoke of social pressure.



ARTIST CV

Ralf Kokke

Born 1989, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

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SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *Forest Friends*, Hans Alf Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark
Licked by the Waves, Museum Vor Modern realisme, Gorssel, The Netherlands
Ralf Kokke, Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, West Palm Beach, USA
- 2023 *Wild Roars in Calm Corners*, Nino Mier Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
Hooked on Neverland, Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, London, UK
- 2022 *Bedtime Stories*, Hans Alf Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark
New Swords Are Forged, Eve Leibe Gallery, London, UK
- 2021 *Between a Rock and a Hard Place*, Hans Alf Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2020 *Art Rotterdam (Mondrian Fund)*, Concepts and Prospects, Rotterdam, Netherlands

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *Art Herning*, Hans Alf Gallery, Herning, Denmark
Enter Art Fair, Hans Alf Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2023 *Enter Art Fair*, Hans Alf Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark
Dont Give A Damns II, Curated by Sasha Bogojev, Volery Gallery, Dubai, UAE
Where the Wild Roses Grow, Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, Schloss Görne, Berlin, Germany
Celesticore, BREACH, Miami, USA
- 2022 *Uprising*, Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, Schloss Görne, Berlin, Germany
- 2021 *Enter Art Fair*, Hans Alf Gallery, Kobenhavn, Denmark
In Momentum, Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, London, UK
Last Days Of Summer, Eve Leibe Gallery, Milan, Italy
Cave Canem, Eve Leibe Gallery, London, UK
- 2020 *Watchlist*, Galerie Droste, Paris, France
Outbreak, De Pont Museum, Tillburg, Netherlands
Wunderwall, Plus One Gallery & Gallery Sofie Van De Velde, Antwerp, Belgium
To Paint Is To Love Again, Nino Mier Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
- 2019 *Late Night Pasta*, Allard Wildenberg Projects, Naarden, Netherlands
Universes Show 2, curated by Sasha Bogojev, The Garage, Amsterdam, Netherlands
My Biggest Small, Showhouse JayJay, Antwerp, Belgium
Velvet Ropes, GIFIC, Antwerp, Belgium