

DRAWING ROOM

Crossing the Circle Philippe Vandenberg

21 September – 13 November 2016

Philippe Vandenberg's (1952–2009) works on paper are highly personal responses to social issues and political upheavals. Powerful abstract and figurative images about sex, death, good and evil, express Vandenberg's existential despair about the world, as well as his dark sense of humour. His works on paper are distinguished by fluid draughtsmanship in pencil, ink and richly coloured watercolour. They possess a sense of urgency, an economy of means and keen playfulness.

Vandenberg's Catholic upbringing left a deep impression on his work. Motifs of the cross and the circle recur throughout his figurative and abstract drawings, with the cross suggesting the crucifixion, and the circle indicating a place of refuge, a void, a halo or a crown of thorns. For Vandenberg, this imagery symbolized the innocence, guilt and sacrifice of Man, or the tortured self-destructive artist himself. In some of his abstract works, the cross turns into a swastika – both a reminder of the political fragility of the world, and a recuperation of its Sanskrit meaning as a sign of peace. In these works, the cross and the circle are metaphors of hope and salvation.

This is the first solo exhibition of Vandenberg's drawings in the UK. Considered one of Belgium's leading painters of the 1980s and 90s, he was an accomplished and prolific draughtsman, filling hundreds of sketchbooks with drawings and watercolours. This exhibition includes a selection of works produced between 1994 and 2009. Vandenberg's remarkable output is comparable to contemporaries René Daniels (Holland), Martin Kippenberger (Germany) and Walter Swennen (Belgium), and his reputation is currently being re-affirmed with museum and gallery exhibitions in Europe, South Korea and Brazil. This exhibition will tour to Bozar, Brussels in 2018.

Exhibition presented in collaboration with the Estate Philippe Vandenberg, Brussels and Hauser & Wirth, London.

Crossing the Circle exhibition text, works list and reading lists etc. can be viewed and downloaded for free from our website www.drawingroom.org.uk

You are invited to create your own drawings with our *Drop-in and Draw* art materials, please ask at the front desk. Kindly supported by Cass Art

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Framed Works

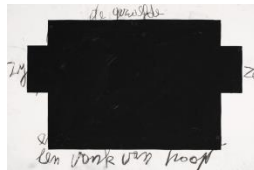
1. No title, 1995-1996
Gouache and charcoal
on paper
73 x 110 cm



7. No title, 1999-2000
Watercolour and pencil
on paper
29,7 x 40,3 cm



2. No title, 1995-1996
Gouache and charcoal
on paper
73 x 110 cm



8. No title, ca. 2001
Pencil on paper
29,7 x 40,3 cm



3. No title, 1994
Ink and pencil on paper
35,6 x 27,8 cm



9. No title (*Vertige de pyramide / Pyramid of Vertigo*), ca. 2001
Pencil on paper
29,7 x 40,3 cm



4. No title, 1997
Watercolour and pencil
on paper
40,3 x 29,7 cm



10. No title (*Le grand vertige / The Great Vertigo*), 2000
Pencil on paper
29,7 x 40,3 cm



5. No title, 1999
Watercolour and pencil
on paper
29,7 x 40,3 cm



11. No title (*L'homme jardin / Garden Man*), ca. 1998
Pencil on paper
29,7 x 40,3 cm



6. No title, 1999
Watercolour and pencil
on paper
29,7 x 40,3 cm



12. No title, 2002-2003
Watercolour and pencil
on paper
29,7 x 41,3 cm

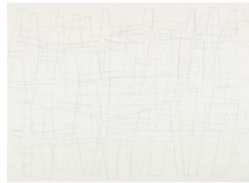


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13. No title, 2002
Pencil on paper
29,7 x 41,3 cm



14. No title, 2003
Watercolour and pencil
41,3 x 29,7 cm



15. No title, 2002-2003
Watercolour and pencil
on paper
29,7 x 41,3 cm



16. No title, 2002-2003
Watercolour and pencil
on paper
29,7 x 41,3 cm



17. No title, 2002-2003
Watercolour and pencil
on paper
29,7 x 41,3 cm



18. No title, 2003
Watercolour and pencil
on paper
29,7 x 41,3 cm



19. No title (Swastika
Self-portrait), ca. 2003
Pencil on paper
47,3 x 36 cm



20. No title, ca. 2003
Watercolour and pencil
on paper
47,3 x 36 cm



21. No title, 2003
Watercolour and pencil
on paper
47,3 x 36 cm



22. No title, 2003
Watercolour and pencil
on paper
47,3 x 36 cm



23. No title, 2006
Ballpoint pen on paper
42 x 58,6 cm



24. No title, 2004
Watercolour and pencil
on paper
45 x 37 cm



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25. No title, 2004
Watercolour on paper
45 x 37 cm



31. No title, 2006
Watercolour and
ballpoint pen on paper
42 x 59,4 cm



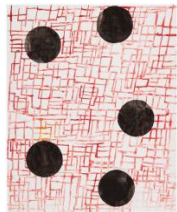
26. No title, 2004
Watercolour and pencil
on paper
47,3 x 36 cm



32. No title
(*L'anarchiste I / The
Anarchist I*), 2008
Watercolour and
ballpoint pen on paper
42 x 59,4 cm



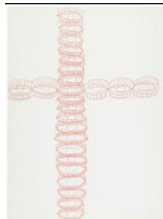
27. No title, 2004
Watercolour on paper
45 x 37 cm



33. No title, 2009
Watercolour and
ballpoint pen on paper
42 x 29,7 cm



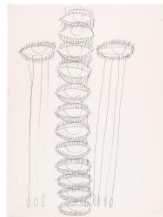
28. No title, ca. 2003
Ballpoint pen on paper
40,9 x 29,7 cm



34. No title, 2009
Watercolour, ballpoint
pen and coloured
pencil on paper
42 x 29,7 cm



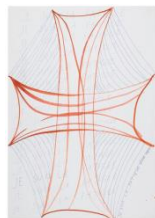
29. No title, 2005-2007
Ballpoint pen on paper
40,9 x 29,7 cm



35. No title, 2009
Watercolour and
pencil on paper
42 x 29,7 cm



30. No title, 2006
Watercolour and
ballpoint pen on paper
59,4 x 41,1 cm



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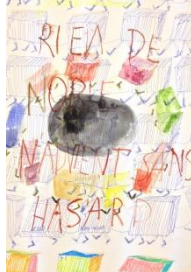
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Display Cases

1. No title, 2006

Watercolour, ballpoint,
marker pen and
highlighter on paper
59,4 x 42 cm



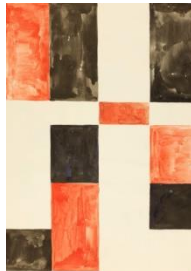
2. No title, 1997

Watercolour and pencil
on paper
42 x 59,4 cm



3. No title, 2004

Watercolour and pencil
on paper
43 x 30 cm



4. No title, ca. 2003

Watercolour and pencil
on paper
48 x 36 cm



5. No title, 1997

Pencil on paper
42 x 59,4 cm

