

Joachim Lambrechts: Unconventional Strokes Of Creativity

By Bianca Kann | August 15, 2023 | 10 min read

“Precisely because I had to find and walk my own path, I have always been very free in my practice.”

Exploring Joachim Lambrechts’ Independent Artistic Path

Joachim Lambrechts, a visual artist residing in Antwerp, Belgium, has long harbored a deep fascination for the aesthetic realm, with painting at the heart of his passion. His formative education in the arts pursued at a secondary school in Antwerp, a period that brought forth challenges aplenty. The quintessential teenage tribulations and self-doubt Lambrechts experienced during this phase led to discontent and diminished motivation. However, he remained resolute, persistently nurturing his affinity for painting.

Rather than succumbing to the pressures of traditional academic paths, Lambrechts undertook a self-guided journey into the artistic field. Though initially perceived as a deviation, this approach facilitated his exploration of an autonomous artistic style. Unlike his peers who often needed to unlearn the rigidity instilled by the academy, Lambrechts discovered an inherent liberty within his artistic process, a result of his independent trajectory. Nonetheless, he concedes the impact of multiple influences on his work, rendering it a reflection of his personal freedom and creative agency.

Artistry was not Lambrechts’ initial aspiration; his childhood dreams were steeped in cosmic ambitions, as he yearned to become an astronaut. However, the absence of a formal degree constrained his vocational avenues. Upon becoming a father at the young age of 21, he was confronted with newfound responsibilities and the necessity of secure employment. His ensuing roles in factories and warehouses, while essential, left him feeling disillusioned and as if he was frittering away his life.

The departure of his child’s mother marked a nadir in Lambrechts’ life, but it was within this desolation that a spark ignited his pursuit of an artistic career. He perceived this transformation as the only path towards self-esteem and fulfillment. The subsequent years were characterized by relentless effort and dedication, propelling him towards his current standing in the artistic sphere.

Today, Lambrechts continues his striving for greater achievements, yet he feels a sense of contentment that was once elusive. He has shed the mantle of failure, finding in its place a coherent narrative that weaves together his experiences, thereby making his journey worthwhile and lending meaning to his present.

Unleashing the Vibrant Mediums of Joachim Lambrechts

Joachim Lambrechts has ventured into an extensive spectrum of materials, manipulating everything from modest wall paints to ecoline, spray paints, and even the more luxurious oils. His evolution as an artist has been a journey marked by constant exploration, leading him to discover the mediums that resonate most intimately with his unique style.

Today, his creations predominantly feature enamel paint, spray paint, and oil sticks, each chosen for their distinctive properties.

The robust, vibrant, and flowing quality of enamel paint has captured Lambrechts’ fascination. Despite its solvency and potential health implications – mainly due to its white spirit base – he is undeterred, valuing the aesthetic and emotional connection he finds with these mediums. While acknowledging that a transition to water-based paints such as acrylics could offer health benefits, he finds himself challenged by the practical application of these mediums. Consequently, Lambrechts adopts measures like optimized ventilation and periodic use of a gas mask to strike a balance between his artistic inclination and well-being.

Lambrechts is not one to constrain his artistic style within narrowly defined boundaries. Instead, he favors descriptors like “spontaneous,” “figurative,” and “playful” to elucidate the nature of his work. His palette of themes is expansive, guided by intuition and the pull of his artistic yearnings. The principle of freedom serves as a cornerstone of his creative process. Each canvas is approached without predetermined ideas, permitting a free rein to his creativity.

Often, Lambrechts may begin his work without a distinct source of inspiration, only to have it burgeon naturally as his engagement with the canvas progresses. The commencement of a piece might be just a few exploratory lines that, under his thoughtful attention, evolve into a more complex work. Not every attempt finds a connection with the artist, leading him to discard and start anew on occasion. This iterative process serves as the crucible wherein his art formulates.

In addition to visual elements, Lambrechts endeavors to infuse his works with humor and a dash of absurdity. He often incorporates textual elements, weaving a narrative layer that amplifies the composition’s impact, further enhancing its overall artistic value.

The Chaotic Creativity of Joachim Lambrechts’ Studio

The creative environment of Joachim Lambrechts hinges upon simplicity and comfort, with a preference for an accommodating sofa to facilitate intermittent reprieves. His artistic journey has been shaped by early fiscal limitations, fostering a proficiency in creating art with the most basic of resources. He cultivated his creative prowess by re-purposing found objects—be it discarded paint pots or various items reclaimed from urban streets and refuse heaps. The rudimentary beginnings of his artistic exploration took place within a modest garage, the roof composed of plastic sheets, necessitating layers of clothing to ward off the chill.

Even with the transition to a capacious, well-furnished studio, Lambrechts’ artistic processes continue to retain a semblance of his early chaos and insouciance. The routine maintenance of cleaning brushes rarely enters his list of priorities, and as a result, the workspace often mirrors the turbulent aftermath of a tempest. Distractions pose little concern to the artist. He descends into his creative undertakings with such absorption that external realities seem to fade into oblivion. Phone calls are habitually disregarded, and his cellular device is often silenced or powered down. Meals and refreshments tend to be neglected, save for the occasional sustenance provided by a few strategically placed bananas.

Regarding influences, Lambrechts’ inspiration emanates from a multitude of artists, rendering the task of assembling a comprehensive list an arduous one. The oeuvre of Philip Guston and Susan Rothenberg holds a particular fascination for him, captivating Lambrechts with their simple yet candid artistic expressions. A notable memory is his visit to the ‘Berlinsche Galerie’ in Berlin, where he was profoundly moved by Werner Heldt’s ‘Door’. This unconventional artwork, rendered in wax crayons and makeup on a wooden door, featured a stark, tri-coloured portrait of a man set against an urban background, arresting the artist’s attention for a considerable period.

Lambrechts’ wellspring of inspiration transcends the realm of visual arts, drawing from music, poetry, cinema, and even spontaneous discoveries in mundane objects such as street stickers or posters. This diversity of influences effectively mirrors the eclectic array of subjects that populate his artwork.

The Transformative Encounters that Shaped Joachim Lambrechts

An instrumental juncture in the artistic evolution of Joachim Lambrechts occurred during his formative years, around the age of twelve. His grandmother introduced him to an exhibition by Pierre Alechinsky, an event that would indelibly shape his perspective on the art world. Prior to this experience, Lambrechts’ familiarity with art had been dominated by renowned Impressionists such as Cézanne, Renoir, and Monet. However, Alechinsky’s exhibition served as a revelatory catalyst, unfurling before him the boundless horizons of artistic expression. While Alechinsky may not hold the title of Lambrechts’ favorite artist, his work invariably evokes memories of this transformative encounter, hence bestowing it with a unique significance in his mind.

In many respects, Lambrechts’ present achievements have surpassed even the most extravagant of his earlier dreams. He cherishes the fortuitous opportunity of collaborating with a stellar gallery, helmed by exceptional individuals who respect and encourage his creative autonomy. The privilege of showcasing his work across various countries and continents, forming new connections, and immersing himself in foreign cultures are experiences that art has generously afforded him. These were once mere figments of Lambrechts’ imagination, which have now materialized into tangible realities.

Yet, Lambrechts is a perpetually evolving entity. His personal ambition propels him to relentlessly elevate his artistic endeavors and strive for further accomplishments. The inherent unpredictability of art, far from daunting him, invigorates his spirit. As he navigates this journey, Lambrechts persists in his diligent efforts, confident in the conviction that the path ahead is strewn with untold treasures waiting to be discovered.

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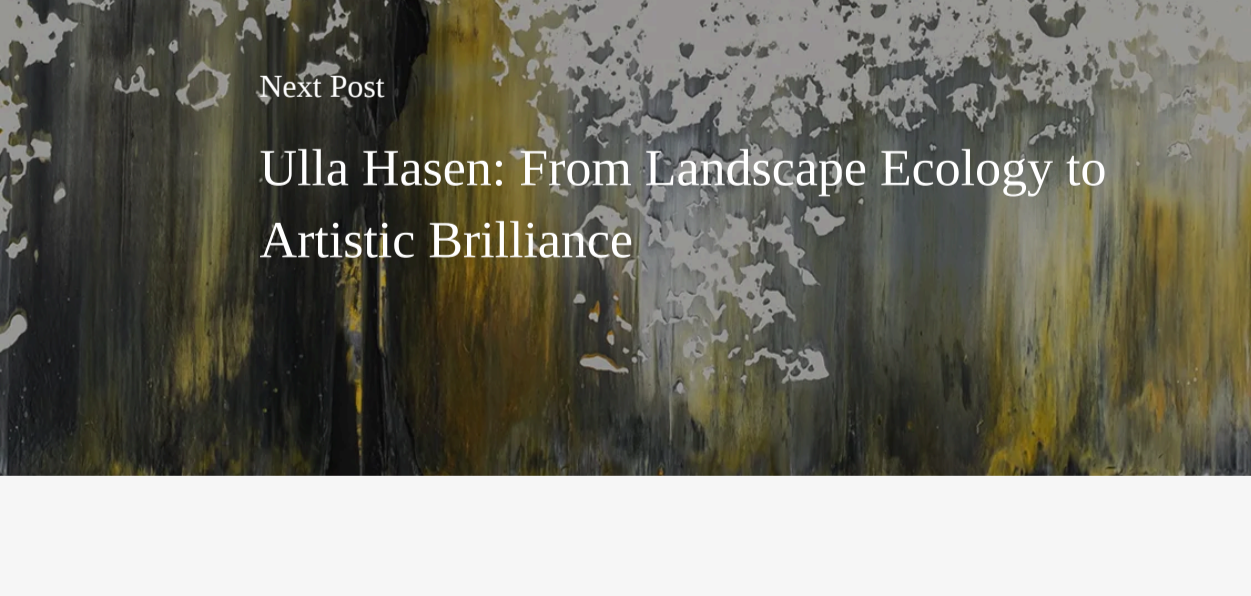
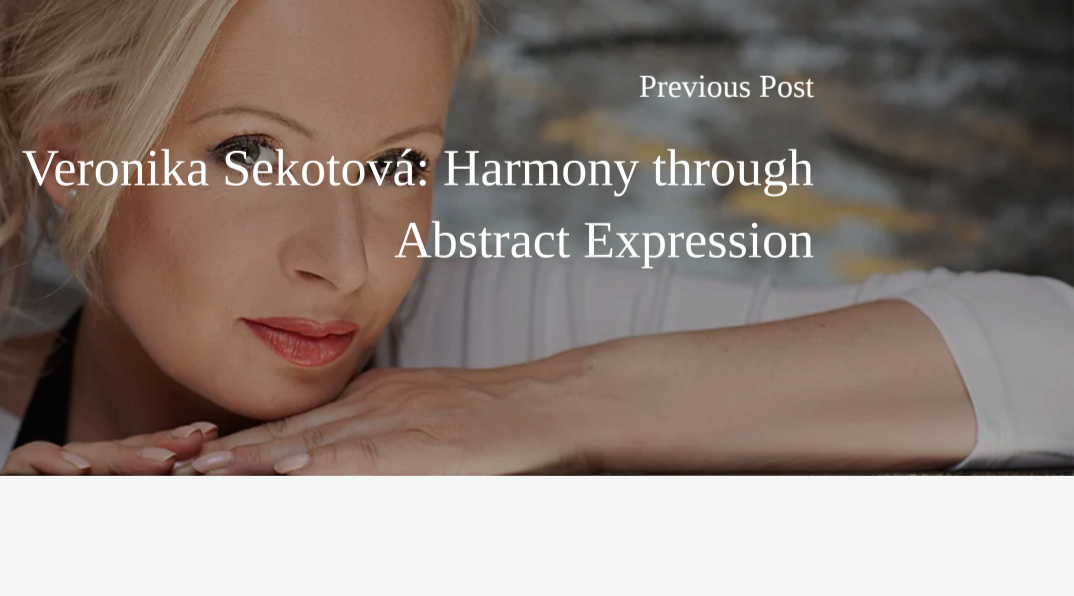
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