



# Traces

Stefaan De Croock (°1982, Eeklo, BE), known as Strook, resides in Aalter and works in Bruges (BE). Through his portraits, De Croock alludes to various existential themes such as transience, vulnerability and insignificance. Questions like What does it mean to be human?, What makes each person authentic?, and What humane aspects connect us?, are thus inseparably intertwined with his artistry. During the creative process, De Croock purposefully employs wood, marble, and metal as the foundation for his work. The texture and patina of these materials symbolize life's scars. In a subdued manner, De Croock's portraits depict the imperfect beauty within each individual. Recent exhibitions include "It's only a matter of time", 2021, Musea Brugge, Bruges (BE), and "So Many Signs", 2023, Diskus, Aalst (BE).

Within the drying rooms of the old paper factory, Strook has crafted the installation 'Traces', featuring four paired compositions. Each duo consists of a wooden arrangement combined with a bronzed fragment sampled from the heritage site. Both forms carry traces of the past within them, transformed into refined objects for the future. The patinas symbolize the mental scars of experiences that every individual carries, shaping each of us into who we are. The dim chambers serve as a palace of memory, where recollections come back to life and grant access to the deepest recesses of our souls.

## 'Traces'

Stefaan De Croock - Strook  
Triënnale Gist

From August 27th to November 5th, 2023  
On Friday, Saturday, and Sunday  
From 10:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Voormalige Demeurs papierfabriek  
Gustave Demeurslaan 92  
1654 Beersel - Belgium

Info & tickets:  
[www.gist-zennevallei.be](http://www.gist-zennevallei.be)



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