

SIMON VAN PARYS, °1986
STUDIO AT NÚCLEO, LINDENLEI 38, 9000 GHENT (BE)

SOLO PROJECTS

- 2025 DYSTOPIA, Blanco, Ghent, BE (upcoming)
 AI UNIVERSE: 2425, Charles De Cordier Fine Arts, Ghent, BE
- 2024 GRAND REOPENING, Lindenlei, Ghent, BE
- 2023 AI UNIVERSE, Nodenaysteen, Ghent, BE
- 2022 PLOVDIV CITY PORTRAIT, Plovdiv Municipality, Plovdiv, BG
 BUITEN BEELD, CC Scharpoord, Knokke, BE
- 2021 THE LAST PATROL, Charles De Cordier Fine Arts, Ghent, BE
 WALL OF SOUND, V/MSP, Brussels, BE
 LASER DRAWINGS, BLANCO, Ghent, BE
- 2020 TEHRAN, RAH, Tehran, IR
- 2018 THE SKY IS THE LIMIT, Soda Mosa Art Space, CH
 HAND-MADE INJECTION INTO THE VIRTUAL, By Other Means, London, UK
- 2017 VAN PARYS, GalerieGerritse, Middelburg, NL
 SIMON VAN PARYS, Villa Belle Vue, Ghent, BE
- 2016 UNTITLED, Royal Star, London, UK
 LOWER STATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS, Barbé Gallery, Ghent, BE
- 2015 SIMON VAN PARYS, Arts & Parts, Ghent, BE
- 2014 VRACHT (FREIGHT), Former Industrial School of Ghent, Ghent, BE
- 2013 SHOWCASE, Cecilia Jaime Gallery, Ghent, BE
- 2011 TURBOCHARGED, Studio K, Ghent, BE
 STRAIGHT FROM THE WORKSHOP: TURBOCHARGED SERIES – Croxhapox, Ghent, BE
- 2010 ALL YOUR BASE ARE BELONG TO US, Croxhapox, Ghent, BE

GROUP PROJECTS

- 2025 UNTITLED, Cecilia Jaime Gallery, Gent, BE
 SCULPTADE, One, Gent, BE
- 2023 PRINSENHOF BIËNNALE, Dekenij Prinsenhof, Gent, BE
 WALKING ON THIN ICE, CAS, Zottegem, BE
- 2022 TOGETHER APART, Diskus, Aalst, BE
 CROSSING BORDERS, Sas-van-Gent, NL
 AHOY, Kunsthalle Trier, Trier, DE
- 2021 INPUT/OUTPUT, De Poortersloge, Bruges, BE
 BIËNNALE VAN IDEEËN, CC De Steiger, Menen, BE
 WHAT LIES BENEATH, CAS, Ostend, BE
- 2020 SACO 9, Antofagasta, CL
 CROSSING BORDER BORDER CROSSING, Hong Kong, HK
- 2019 WASTELAND, The Untitled Space, Shanghai, CN
 ZWRT, Barbé Urbain Gallery, Ghent, BE
 INTERCULT 77, Brussels, BE
 T32, Montevideo, UY
 BUENOS AIRES ENGINES, CHELA, Buenos Aires, AR
- 2018 JCCAC - Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre, Hong Kong, HK
 PREMIO COMEL, Spazio Comel Contemporary art Gallery, Latina, IT
- 2017 THE 6TH INTERNATIONAL GREEN FILM AND VISUAL ARTS FESTIVAL, Tehran, IR
 ESTUDIO ABIERTO DEL PROGRAMA DE RESIDENCIA #7, LID, Buenos Aires, AR
 GROUP SHOW, Barbé Gallery, Ghent, BE
- 2016 SOME AND OTHERS, Autumn gallery tour, Spinnerei Galleries, Leipzig, DE
- 2015 LL-EXIT, Karel Cuyperhuis, Antwerp, BE
- 2014 REVISITED, The Young ones, Municipal Art Institute of Ghent (SKI), Ghent, BE
- 2013 THERE ARE STORIES..., Paddenhoek, Ghent, BE
- 2012 LADIES & GENTLEMEN WE ARE FLOATHING IN SPACE, KC Nona, Mechelen, BE
 THREE IS A CROWD 2.0, Cypres Gallerie, Leuven, BE
- 2011 NÚCLEO - DE CONNEXIE, De Lindenlei, Ghent, BE

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EDUCATION, GRANTS & SELECTIONS

- 2010 MFA / SCULPTURE, University College School of Arts, Ghent, BE
- 2018 GRANT OF THE FLEMISH GOVERNMENT, BE
- 2018 LAUREATE PRIZE 'PREMIO CO.M.EL, Latina, IT
- 2020 LAUREATE PRIZE 'KLEIN SCULPTUUR', Heist-op-den-Berg, BE
 WINNER 'SACO 9' visual arts festival, Antofagasta, CL

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

- 2022 CONTEXT AIR, Plovdiv, BG
- 2020 RAH, Tehran, IR
- 2019 THE UNTITLED SPACE, Shanghai, CN
 EAC, Montevideo, UR
 CHELA, Buenos Aires, AR
- 2018 TONGLAU ART SPACE, Hong Kong, HK
 SODA MOSA ART SPACE, La-Chaux-De-Fonds, CH
 BY OTHER MEANS, London, UK
- 2017 LA IRA DE DIOS, Buenos Aires, AR
- 2016 LIA, Spinnerei, Leipzig, DE

LITERATURE AND PUBLICATIONS

- 2021 HET VOORSTEL, Menen, BE, produced by CC De Steiger
 SACO 9, Antofagasta, CL, produced by SACO
 ART IS BUCH, Ghent, BE, produced by NÚCLEO
- 2018 THIS MACHINE BLEEDS, THE END OF FICTION, June, written by Daniel Pateman, UK
- 2017 DOMIEN, PZC, Walcheren 4 May, pg. 6, NL
- 2016 ART IN MIND: RED HEAT, MAYBELDNR, March, written by Koray Hussein
 FAST AND FURIOUS, COLLECT NR460, pg. 14
- 2015 LL-EXIT, HVV
- 2014 FEATURED ARTIST: SIMON VAN PARYS, SUBBACULTCHA MAGAZINE!, April, written by Stien De Vrieze
- 2013 THERE ARE STORIES..., pg. 114-115
- 2012 III IS A CROWD 2.0, <H>ART, February, written by Christine Vuegen

LECTURES & PUBLIC SERVICE

- 2025 MASTERCLASS AI DEVELOPMENT, KADE, Deinze, BE
- 2024 MASTERCLASS AI DEVELOPMENT, KASK Ghent, Ghent, BE
- 2023 GRANT COMMISSION MEMBER of the Flemish Government, BE
- 2022 'SIMON VAN PARYS', KASK Ghent, Ghent, BE
 'PLOVDIV', Kapana, Plovdiv, BG
 JURY MEMBER of the Municipal Art School (SKI), Ghent, BE
- 2020 MASTERCLASS IN EXHIBITION BUILDING, Antofagasta, CL
 AKNOON GALLERY, Isfahan, IR
 JALEH GALLERY, Tehran, IR
- 2019 CHELA, Buenos Aires, AR
- 2017 LA IRA DE DIOS, Buenos Aires, AR

COMMISSIONED

- 2025 'OKANISME', Digital engineering for Nodenaysteen/Alusion
- 2022 STEEL CONSTRUCTION for BACK-architecten, BE
- 2020 DISQUIET, scenography for Lisa Vereertbruggen (coproduction STUK), BE
- 2018 BERG, scenography for Watzmann & NTGent, BE
- 2015 VERTERE, Vinyl Label design for Life & Death Records, DE/IT

BIO

Simon Van Parys (°1986, based in Ghent, BE), earned his MFA degree in sculpture from KASK/School of Arts in Ghent in 2010. Instead of following the trends of his era, Simon opted to concentrate on creating hand-modeled, futuristic sculptures. After graduation, he established his studio in Ghent and started his career as a professional artist. From 2010 to 2015, he focused on developing his own formal language and style for his sculptures and chose to adopt a low-profile exhibition approach. He saw exhibitions as a means to test and gauge his artworks with the public.

Since 2016, Simon has expanded his artistic practice to embrace multimedia, producing his own techno music and crafting soundscapes from project recordings that serve as tailored soundtracks for his sculptures, often integrated with built-in speakers to create immersive audiovisual experiences. He also develops digital drawings and laser projections that dramatise his sculptural works. In recent years, Simon has taken a decisive step into the world of artificial intelligence, training open-source models on his own oeuvre and running them locally on a dedicated offline machine. Fully in his hands and beyond external control, this approach allows him to generate entirely new sculptures and environments in his recognisable style. Sandwiched within a predominantly handmade process, these AI outputs broaden his imaginative universe and act as catalysts for worldbuilding, which he then translates back into tangible form through clay modelling, drawing, and sculpture. Ultimately, AI serves as a tool for invention, while the physical act of making remains at the core of his practice.

Simon has engaged in various international collaborations since 2016. His work method typically involves arriving in a new city, barely knowing anyone, and having one month to figure out all the practical details and deliver a full solo-show for the local public. Simon has conducted international solo-projects in cities such as London (UK), Buenos Aires (AR), Hong Kong (HK), Neuchatel (CH), Montevideo (UY), Shanghai (CN), Tehran (IR), Antofagasta (CL), Trier (DE), and Plovdiv (BG).

In 2018, Simon was awarded a Development Grant by the Flemish Government for his interdisciplinary approach. He subsequently served as an advising expert for the cultural grant approval committee of the Flemish Government in 2022, 2023, and 2024. Art schools frequently invite him as a jury member or guest lecturer, reflecting his active role in shaping and supporting contemporary artistic practice. Beyond his own studio, Simon applies the full range of in-house techniques developed in his practice to commissioned projects within the arts, including sound design, scenography, furniture design, welding, and graphic design.

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

I consider myself an old-school futurist, and my artistic expression is a combination of traditional and contemporary media. I work across a wide range of techniques, including clay sculpture, welding, digital drawing, electronic music, laser projections, and offline open-source AI models trained on my own work, each serving as a channel for the energy and inspiration that drives me. My practice often centres on futuristic themes and bodies, from space crafts and container terminals to V8 engines, megalopolises, and nuclear submarines.

At the core of my work lies a fascination with human creativity and the ways in which rapidly changing environments shape our existence. I am deeply inspired by the ongoing evolution of the world — from its past into its possible futures — and this sense of transformation fuels my desire to contribute to that continuum. Sharing this energy with others is an essential part of my practice, not only as an artistic gesture but as a way of passing forward the spark that drives me.