

Press release

**MAD**  
art gallery

## ADO HAMELRYCK – *Nothing Really Ends*

Curated by: Pieter Vermeulen

August 29 – October 11 '25

MAD Art Gallery, Poznań



Hamelryck's work draws us into visual rhythms, layered with dense, pastose matter spread across his dark grounds—a rhythm of repetition that shifts and differentiates endlessly. On the irregular skin of his canvases unfolds a visual poetry—marked by a peculiar silvery glow. Perhaps this explains his devotion to graphite? It is precisely here, along the frayed edges of the image, that a refined interplay is born: between light and shadow, white and black, viewer and work, matter and void, time and space.

His textures and accents set the surface trembling, as though a hidden dynamism smolders beneath its apparent stillness. These glimmers and reflections endow Hamelryck's works with an added finesse—a sensual delight that leads us to a revelation: black is a color.



For the exhibition *Nothing Really Ends* we have made a careful selection from the oeuvre of Ado Hamelryck—not with the ambition of exhausting its entirety, but to capture a representative trace of his artistic signature. It is a practice imbued with patience, silence, stillness, and slowness—a rare way of seeing and creating, so often at odds with the feverish pace of our times.

Hamelryck had little to do with haste. He likened his creative persistence to the steady stride of a marathon runner. Or perhaps more fittingly—to Aesop's tortoise, who defeats the hare through perseverance and determination. This exhibition testifies to the same, even now, when the artist is no longer among us. Everything is a matter of time. The art Ado Hamelryck leaves behind shows us that the end is only a horizon—an imagined line that does not mark a limit, but instead opens the beginning of something new.

This is more than an exhibition—it is an experience of time and presence. For art lovers, collectors, and all those curious to understand why the work of this Belgian artist continues to resonate and find its place in important collections.

#### ABOUT THE ARTIST:



**Ado Hamelryck** (Halle, November 2, 1941–Genk, October 5, 2024) was a visual artist exploring the spectrum of dark hues. This decision is crucial in his quest for unadulterated imagery and refinement. He cultivated an entirely own character in his methodology—both physically and symbolically. The application of the black paint, ink, or substance was executed by repeated, rhythmic, and contemplative activities. Meaningless letters or symbols occupy the space. Through an extensive sequence of actions, a pristine image materializes; the artwork, and the previously meaningless, becomes significance.

Ado Hamelryck pursued his education at the Academy of Fine Arts in Brussels and the Higher Institute of Fine Arts in Antwerp. In 1967, he relocated to Genk and assumed a teaching position at the newly founded SHIVKV (Municipal Higher Institute for Visual Communication and Design). Until his retirement, Ado Hamelryck instructed many generations of painters and graphic designers in figure drawing.

Ado Hamelryck's artistic curriculum vitae encompasses solo exhibitions in Brussels (BOZAR, Atelier 340), Antwerp (I.C.C., Galerij XXI), Ghent (Association for the Museum of Contemporary Art), Liège (Musée d'Art Moderne), Hasselt (Provincial Museum, CIAP, ccHA), Genk (FLACC, C-mine), Lanaken, Amsterdam (Brakke Grond), The Hague, and Maastricht, among others, in addition to a multitude of group exhibitions both nationally and internationally. Numerous books exist, including 'Art in Belgium after 1945' by Karel Geirlandt and the 2011 monograph 'Not one black, but twenty-seven blacks, I guarantee you.'

Ado Hamelryck received several accolades, including distinction at the Prix Jeune Peinture Belge in 1961 and 1962, encouragement from the Flemish Community in 1986, and the title of knight in the Order of Leopold II in 1988. He has the position of honorary lecturer at the LUCA School of Arts.

His oeuvre is part of the collections of MuZEE Ostend, M HKA, the University of Antwerp, the Province of Limburg, the Flemish Community, the French Community, the National Bank of Brussels, KBC, and several individual collectors.

HAMELRYCK ART vzw was established in 2023 by Arend Hamelryck and his spouse Diana Zaat. The non-profit organization is compiling a comprehensive inventory of all works of Ado Hamelryck and intends to delineate his career as a professional visual artist. Through this initiative, HAMELRYCK ART vzw seeks to preserve the comprehensive body of work of this artist for posterity.

Ado Hamelryck has been represented by Uitstalling Art Gallery in Genk, Belgium, since 2025.

### **About MAD Art Gallery**

MAD Art Gallery encompasses two complementary spaces for contemporary art – one in Poznań and the newly opened location in Warsaw – both established out of a need to create a significant platform for dialogue between the artist, the work, and the viewer.

Our mission is to initiate exhibitions and projects that address pressing social, cultural, and political phenomena, while remaining deeply rooted in a reflection on the language of art and its possibilities. At the core of our interests lies art that transcends disciplinary boundaries, explores new media, temporality, and performativity, as well as works with a strong conceptual foundation.

MAD Art Gallery functions as a site of confrontation between perspectives – bringing together established artists and emerging voices who are only beginning to define their practice. We focus on creative approaches that not only describe reality but actively shape it – through aesthetic tensions, formal experimentation, and social engagement.

The gallery's program includes curated solo and group exhibitions, site-specific projects, artist residencies, and research initiatives developed in collaboration with critics, scholars, and cultural institutions.

MAD Art Gallery is committed to presenting works that embody an engagement with critical aesthetics and cultural relevance — focusing on artists whose practices resonate across borders and disciplines.

### **ADO HAMELRYCK – *NOTHING REALLY ENDS***

Curated by: Pieter Vermeulen

**Vernissge:** August 29, 5.30PM .

**Exhibition:** 29.08 – 11.10.2025

**Adress:** ul. Mielżyńskiego 27/29, 61-725 Poznań

**Opening hours:** Mon – Fri: 11-am – 9pm, Sat: 11am-3pm

**Website:** [www.madartgallery.pl](http://www.madartgallery.pl)

For more information, please contact: [monika@madartgallery.pl](mailto:monika@madartgallery.pl)



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