



herman de vries

Settantotto Art Gallery

Art Brussels
23 - 26 04 2026

booth 5E-18

About herman de vries

herman de vries was born on July 11, 1931, in Alkmaar and is regarded as one of the most influential Dutch artists within conceptual and ecological art. His work exists at the intersection of art and science and is characterized by a profound fascination with nature and its processes.

Initially, de vries trained in horticulture and worked as a researcher in botany. This scientific background has had a lasting influence on his artistic practice. In the 1950s and 1960s, he became involved in the international movement of informal art and was associated with the Nul group, alongside artists such as Jan Schoonhoven and Henk Peeters. Within this context, he explored serial structures, chance, and objectivity.

From the 1970s onward, his focus shifted explicitly toward nature as both subject and material. de vries began collecting and presenting natural elements such as soil, leaves, stones, and plants without artistically manipulating them. He viewed nature itself as an autonomous artwork and considered his role more as that of a mediator or documentalist. His well-known projects, such as his so-called "earth works" and installations with found materials, emphasize the intrinsic value and diversity of the natural world.

An important aspect of his work is the concept of "chance." By using random processes—for example, dropping leaves onto a surface and then fixing them exactly as they fall—he attempts to minimize human control and aesthetic preference. In doing so, he aligns himself with broader conceptual tendencies in contemporary art.

Since the 1970s, de vries has lived and worked in Germany, near the Steigerwald, which he refers to as his "studio" because of the amount of time he spends there collecting materials. His international recognition has grown steadily; he represented the Netherlands at the Venice Biennale in 2015, where he received considerable praise for his restrained yet powerful presentation.

The oeuvre of herman de vries is included in numerous museum collections worldwide. His work invites stillness and attention, emphasizing the relationship between humans and nature in a time of ecological urgency. Through his unique approach, he has made a lasting contribution to the development of both conceptual art and land art.

His work is held in important collections worldwide, such as MoMA (New York), Centre Pompidou (Paris), Victoria and Albert Museum (London), Guggenheim Museum (New York), Louisiana Museum of Modern Art (Denmark), Stedelijk Museum (Amsterdam), Museum Ludwig (Köln), Kröller-Müller Museum (Otterlo), Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen (Rotterdam), Museum Voorlinden (Wassenaar), ...

Recent institutional solo exhibitions include:

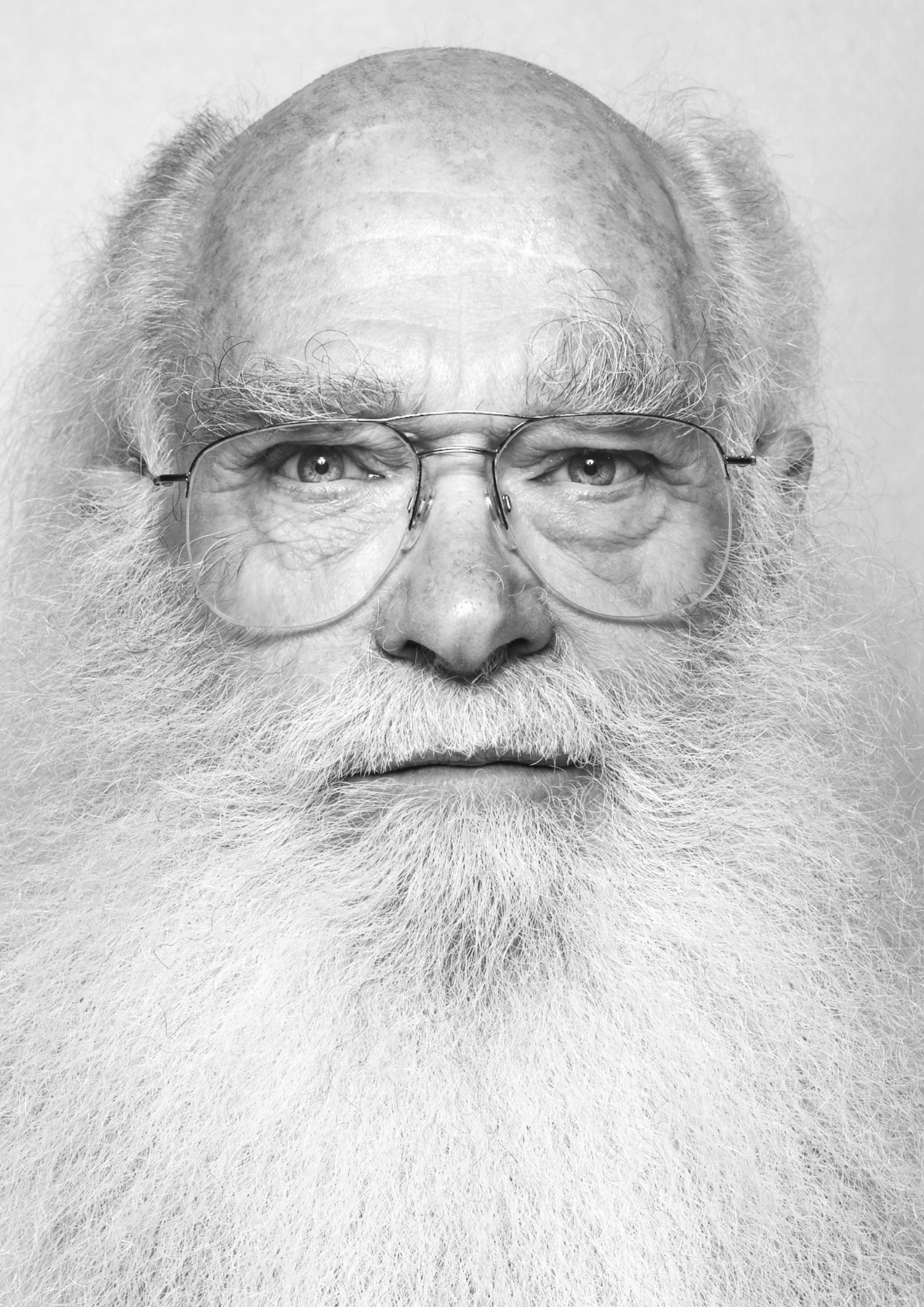
2026. ZERO Foundation (Düsseldorf, Germany). "herman de vries. zero is the gate"

2025. Rijksmuseum Twenthe (Enschede, Netherlands). "herman de vries. 70 jaar de natuur als kunstwerk".

2025. MuseumsQuartier Freiraum (Vienna, Austria). "herman de vries. all this."

2024. Kunstmuseum Den Haag. (Netherlands) "herman de vries - summer press"

2015. Biennale di Venezia (Italy). "herman de vries. to be all ways to be". Representing the Netherlands.





About Settantotto

Settantotto Art Gallery is a contemporary art space based in Ghent, Belgium, dedicated to exhibiting and promoting rigorous abstract, minimal, and post-war avant-garde practices. The gallery was founded in 2022 by Layla Lavens and Thijs Dely, and specialises in work from and around the international ZERO movement, minimalism, and abstract art, bridging historical contributions with contemporary artistic production. It regularly presents curated solo and group exhibitions featuring both established and emerging artists whose practices engage with formal reduction, material exploration, and conceptual inquiry.

The gallery's programme reflects a commitment to artistic depth and historical awareness. Past exhibitions have included comprehensive solo presentations and thematic group shows, showcasing figures such as herman de vries, Wim Nival, Bert De Geyter, Leen Van Tichelen, and historical positions within the ZERO and abstract movements. Through these exhibitions, Settantotto fosters dialogue between generation-defining work from the post-war period and contemporary explorations of form, process, and perception.

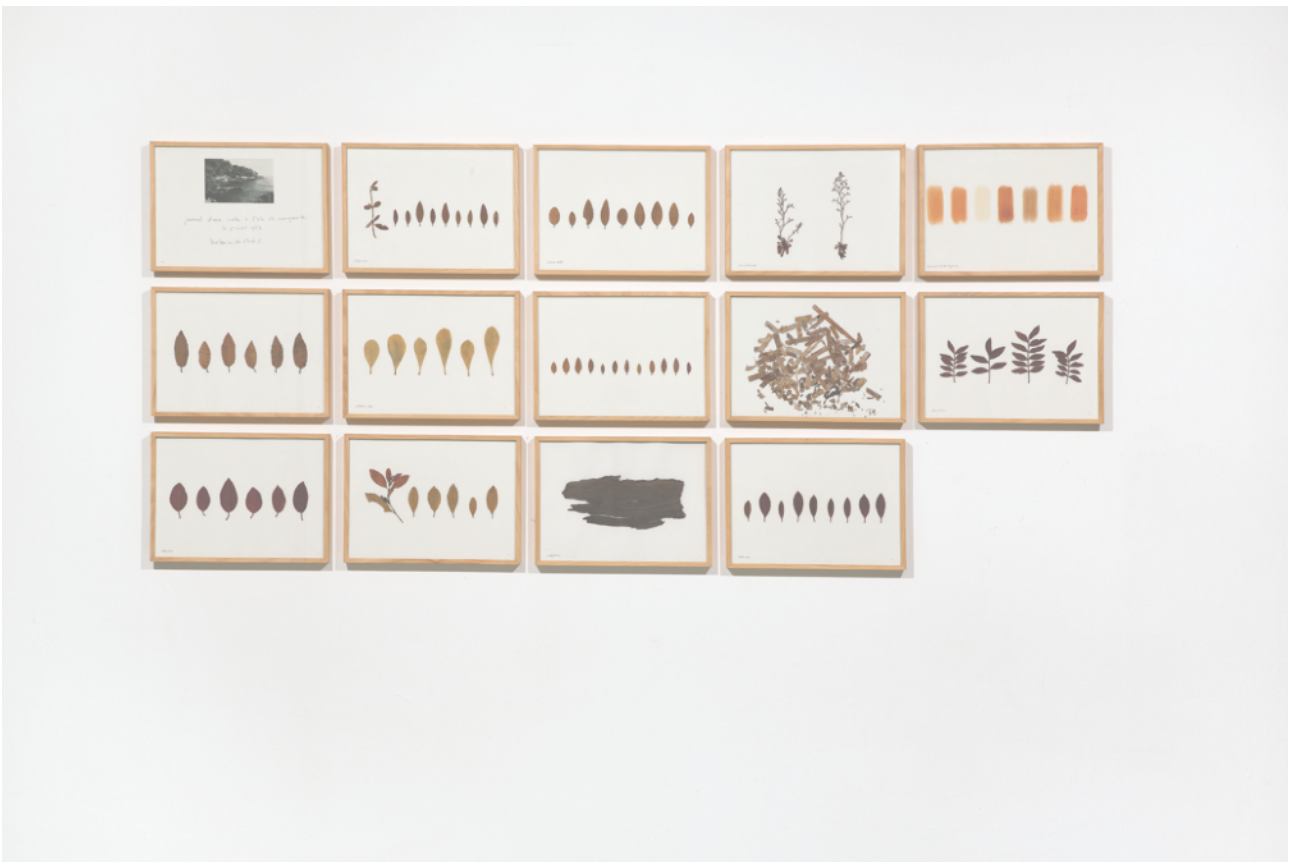
Settantotto also participates in international art fairs and special projects, presenting focused selections of its programme to a broader professional audience. This includes participation in curated fair sectors and collaborations that situate the gallery's artists in critical contemporary discourse.

Operating from its venue in Ghent, the gallery serves collectors, curators, and the public through exhibitions, appointments, and fair presentations. Its programme emphasises quality, coherence, and an engaged curatorial vision, contributing to the international visibility of both its represented artists and the enduring relevance of abstract and minimal practices.

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journal d'une visite à l'île ste. marguerite le 9me avril, 14 panels, 25 x 35 cm each, 1999. €42.000



herman de vries, *equisetum hiemale*. coll.: weilersbach, 85 x 62 cm, 2018. €10.500





herman de vries, an afternoon under the cherry tree, 76 x 104,5 cm (2 panels), 1979. €29.000



herman de vries, together, coll.: 1992, 161 x 30,5 cm, 2023. €14.500



herman de vries, cotoneaster atlanticus II., coll.: faillefeu 05 2006, 16 x 47,2 x 3 cm, 2006. €4.500



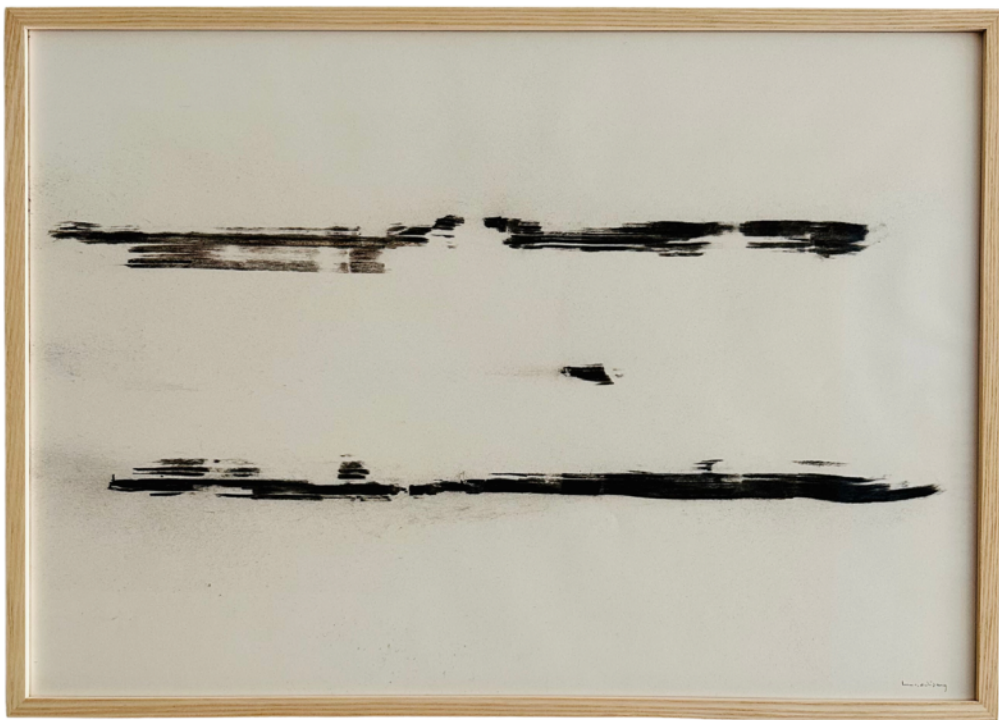
herman de vries, cotoneaster delphinensis I., coll.: faillefeu 05 2006, 16 x 47,2 x 3 cm, 2006. €4.500



herman de vries, original curves, coll.: suhl, 62,5 x 183 x 5,5 cm, 2008. €31.000



herman de vries, some leaves from the streets, Bombay 24-1-1977, 70 x 100 cm, 1977. €19.500



herman de vries, untitled (hdv), 50 x 70 cm, 2009. €5.000



herman de vries
coll.: im garten, eschenau
25 x 35 cm
2023
€3.500



herman de vries
coll. 27.5.2013
25 x 35 cm
2023
€2.200



herman de vries
phragmites communis, aug. 1997
22 x 31 cm
1998
€2.200



herman de vries, is, 50 x 70 cm, 1995. €10.500



herman de vries
collected: silbersattel st.w
36 x 26 cm
2023
€3.500



herman de vries
morus alba part, coll.: lazaretto nuovo 1.10.2014
36 x 26 x 10 cm
2014
€3.500



herman de vries, acer pseudoplatanus mit rhytisma punctata, 73 x 102 cm, 2022. €17.000



herman de vries, tussilago farfara, 85 x 60 cm, 2004. €8.200.



herman de vries, coll.: tamri, maroc, 25 x 35 cm, 2011. €3.500



herman de vries
coll.: habachtal, A.
25 x 35 cm
2024
€3.500



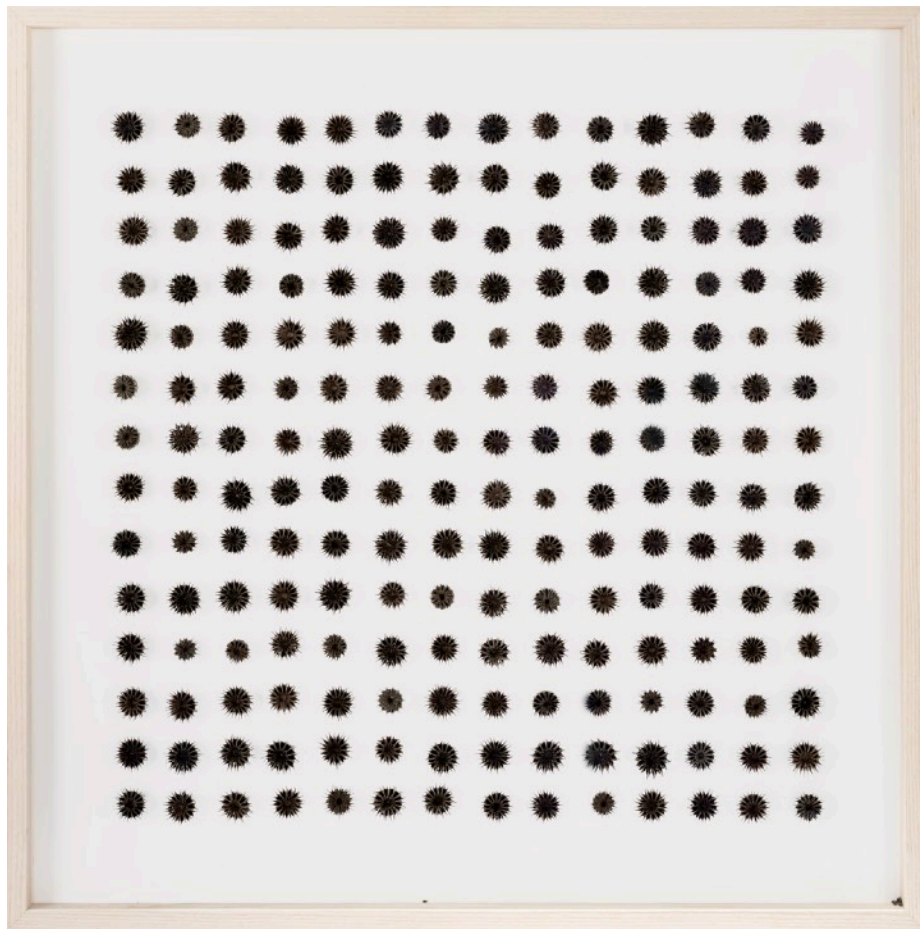
herman de vries
coll.: by w. aull, isar b. bad tölz
25 x 35 cm
2024
€3.500



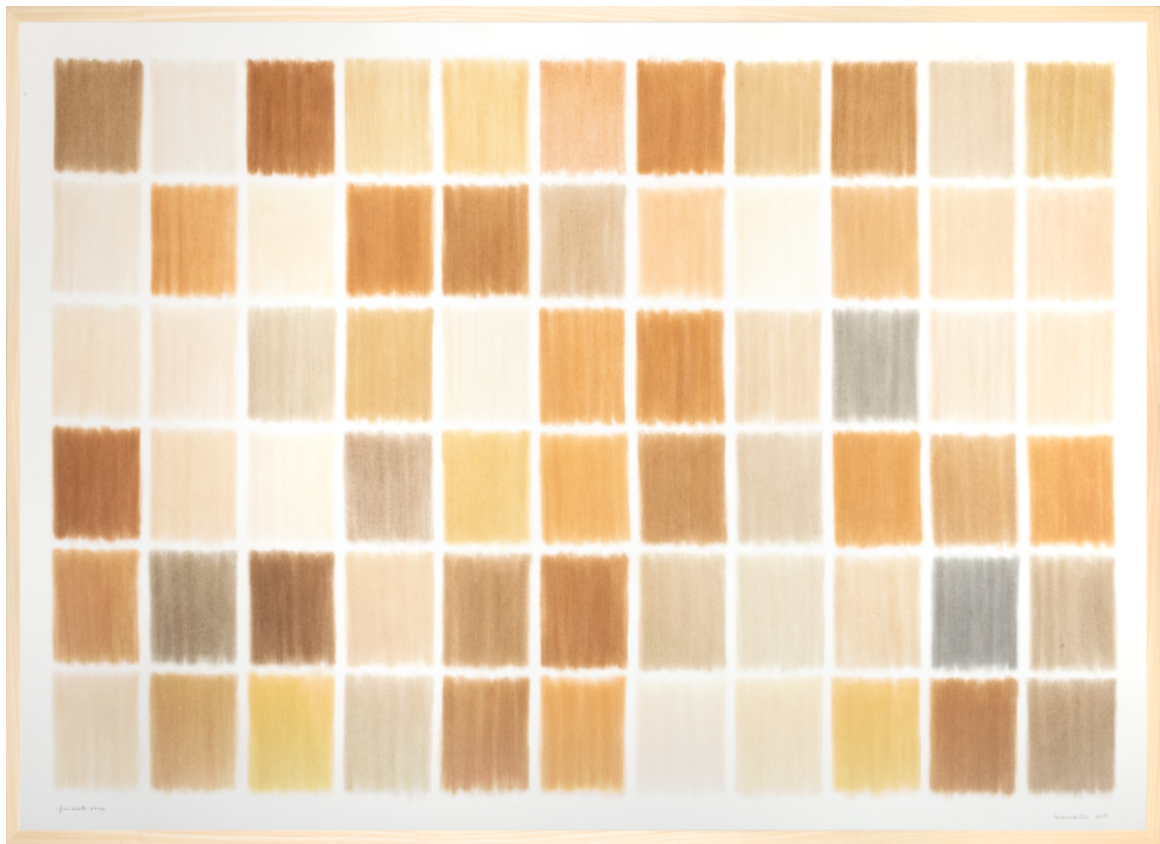
herman de vries
coll.: ireo, samos
25 x 35 cm
2024
€3.500



herman de vries
coll.: posidonio, samos
25 x 35 cm
2024
€3.500



herman de vries, abutilon spec., 70 x 70 cm, 2019. €10.500



herman de vries, from earth: samos, 75 x 102,5 cm, 2018. €14.000



herman de vries, from the earth of the kailash, 104 x 75 cm, 2018. €12.800



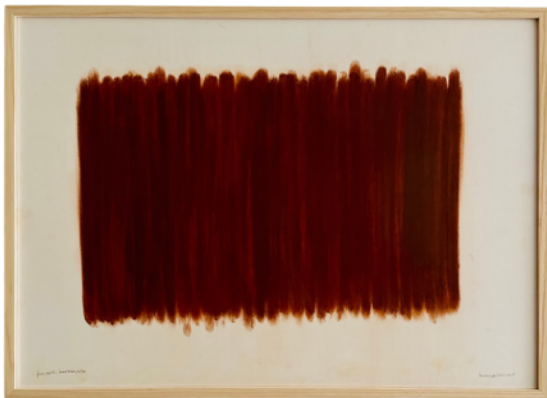
herman de vries, from earth: roussillon, 75 x 104 cm, 1999. €12.800



herman de vries
from earth: from around luang prabang
70 x 50 cm
2019
€6.600



herman de vries
from earth: tsum valley, Nepal
70 x 50 cm
2018
€6.600



herman de vries
from earth: baracoa, cuba
50 x 70 cm
2018
€6.600



herman de vries
ashes, eschenau
50 x 70 cm
2002
€6.600



herman de vries, from the dust of the shapora, 50 x 38 cm, 1989. €4.300



herman de vries, from earth:
gentas de Ioltùn, Mexico.
30 x 21 cm
2017
€1.600



herman de vries, from earth:
grosser Knetzberg, 05 06 '02
30 x 21 cm
2002
€1.600



herman de vries, from earth:
Powhatan, Virginia, USA.
30 x 21 cm
2020
€1.600



herman de vries, from earth:
Powhatan, Virginia, USA.
30 x 21 cm
2020
€1.600



herman de vries, from earth:
Qal'at al Bahrain
30 x 21 cm
2020
€1.600



herman de vries, from earth:
Trentino: Pèio Terme
30 x 21 cm
2000
€1.600



herman de vries, from earth:
Sanyang, Gambia
30 x 21 cm
1995
€1.900



herman de vries, from earth:
Odessa
30 x 21 cm
2022
€1.600



herman de vries, part - coll.: böhlgrund 9.7.99 (*convolvulus arvensis*), 31 x 22 cm, 1999. €2.200

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