

Malget François, 'On the Edge of Two Worlds; Patrick Van Caeckenbergh'. [www.zoomagazine.com](http://www.zoomagazine.com), December 2020, p.32.

NEWS FROM ALL OVER THE PLACE

## On the Edge of Two Worlds

by François Malget

There are hidden parallels between scientific theory, folk tales and mythologies, which often remain hidden at first glance. Not so for Belgian artist Patrick Van Caeckenbergh, who schematizes, catalogues and maps out the world in his own unique way, formulating alternative thought structures that are often very topical and critical in nature. The result is *Le Monde à L'Envers* presented at Zeno X Gallery, which Van Caeckenbergh joined in 1987. One of the leading characters in many of his works is the figure of the shaman, a figure on the border between two worlds that he tries to connect. One could say that there is a real connection between Van Caeckenbergh and the shaman, as both are, before anything else, observers of reality.

The Belgian artist refers to himself as "cosmogonologist", studying the creation of the universe not only scientifically, but also in folk tales and ancient mythologies. This search expresses itself in the repeating motifs found in his body of work such as the egg or the snake, which are a universal sign for the origin of the world or associated with eternal life respectively. The artist does not only rely on myths and legends for his works, but also tackles scientific principles, such as Werner Heisenberg's uncertainty principle which becomes inspiration for *God doesn't gamble*, a sculpture which draws parallels to the arbitrary character of the human existence. As an artist, Patrick Van Caeckenbergh places his artistic practice on the edge of two worlds, not unlike ancient shamans, and finds a particular role in society as intermediary or transmitter of information.

*Le Monde à L'Envers* is on show at Zeno X Gallery Antwerp until February 20<sup>th</sup> 2021.

[www.zeno-x.com](http://www.zeno-x.com)



Van Caeckenbergh Patrick  
*"Le monde à l'envers (Het masker)"*  
2015 - 2020  
285,5 x 195,0 x 90,5 cm  
mixed media  
(unique in a series of 3 + prototype)  
photographer: We Document Art  
courtesy Zeno X Gallery, Antwerp