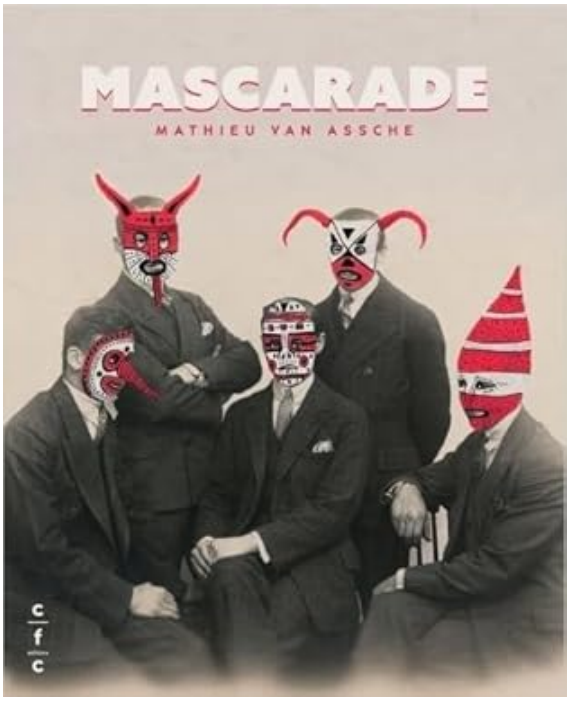
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Mascarade

Mathieu Van Assche

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- This is the first book about Mathieu Van Assche and his 'sabotaged' photographs

“For several years I have been retrieving, buying and collecting old photographs, old identity portraits and family photographs from an earlier era. Little by little I started drawing with a Posca felt-tip painting pen, on the originals, initially just for the fun of it and without anything specific in mind. Later on, as I really liked that support, I continued to develop that approach by initiating a dialogue between the illustration and its photographic support. I started masking the faces, moving away from those rather set portraits to introduce a form of mystery, of uncanny. I derive my inspiration both from the effervescence in less affluent neighbourhoods and from the imagery of the sacred or in the tradition of masks in so-called ‘primitive’ societies. The sources merge, creating a universe which I can call mine. The sources merge, creating a universe that is both dream-like and a bit bashed up, inhabited by nice monsters and phantasmagoric creatures.” – Mathieu Van Assche

Text in English and French.

Mathieu Van Assche (born in 1980) is active as a graphic artist (Dirk Studio), an illustrator, an engraver and a photographer. He lives and works in Brussels, and has co-founded the publishing house Le Mulet. In February 2022 he was awarded the Prix de la Gravure et de l'Image imprimée, bestowed by the CGI (La Louvière, BE), at its 30th edition. Since 2017 he has been exhibiting his photographs, engravings and 'undermined images' at regular intervals.





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