



Interplay of
sleek lines
created
from steel.

GVD

Bart Somers
THE NETHERLANDS 1958



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For Bart Somers, working with metal is a continuous dialogue between strength and grace. He sculpts with his forging hammer, he paints with his blowtorch. That is how he succeeds in transforming stubborn corten steel and high-gloss stainless steel into sculptures that appear surprisingly light and graceful. His sculptures play with space and light, with the sleek lines telling the story and all unnecessary details intentionally omitted. What remains is a powerful abstraction, which invites the viewer's imagination to fill in the blanks.

Lascaux's cave paintings, over 15,000 years old, fascinate him, as does the work of Spanish sculptor Carlos Mata. But Somers translates these influences into an entirely unique visual language: airy contours of steel, which evoke animals and

human figures without fully defining them.

In his studio, Somers literally plays with fire for his material. The bending, cutting, forging and mastering of metal is a challenge he takes on repeatedly, but one does not perceive this in the finished sculptures. The robust raw materials appear almost soft, as if they were created with brushstrokes. The result is an oeuvre full of contrasts: sturdy yet elegant, exuberant yet restrained. Sculptures that show even the hardest metal can evoke emotions.





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Burgemeester van Nispen
van Sevenaerstraat 3
1251 KD Laren (NH)
The Netherlands

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+31 (0)13 523 47 40
info@galleryvandun.com

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