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# REBELS & DEVILS

Joris Van de Moortel

THE  
DRAWING ROOM  
CONTEMPORARY ART



## **Rebels and Devils, a song from the heart.**

Diving into creation myths we find the same pattern across different cultures: an earthly paradise disturbed by human impact. Unfortunately, the destructive part no longer belongs to the world of myth. Myths hold powerful forces as a simple warning to hold balance with our environment, to respect not only our personal needs but absorb ourselves into the bigger picture of the cosmos— at the end, we are but nature's compost.

The recent impact of human actions, originating centuries before, is so mind-blowing, that these actions could enter the world of myth with ease. Mythifying real problems is like a meta-problem that makes my head explode. If evil does exist, it is in the mythification of our actions, packaged as prosperity, progress, and growth. In the hundreds of thousands of years that humans have walked on this planet, not one was able to purchase a soul. But when you embrace the creative process you can create a soul. Evil is a natural force of life, a creative energy, a source essential to the creation of a soul. Now reverse it; read it from right to left; Live.



Soil versus soul (detail), woodblock print and acrylic on canvas, 45 x 70 cm, 2024





(On the cover)  
Woodblock print and acrylic on canvas  
190 x 150 cm  
2024





Woodblock print and acrylic on canvas  
62 x 42 cm  
2024





Woodblock print and acrylic on canvas  
45 x 70 cm  
2024





Watercolour and gouache on 100% cotton, UV varnish  
40.5 x 30.5 cm  
2024





Watercolour and gouache on 100% cotton, UV varnish  
40.5 x 30.5 cm  
2024





Oil on linen  
135 x 86 cm  
2023





## JORIS VAN DE MOORTELE

Joris Van de Moortel works on a multidisciplinary oeuvre that explores the boundaries of art forms and challenges conventions. His chaotic aesthetic and deep-rooted creative urge form a unique universe that opens a critical dialogue on the complex relationships between nature, culture, art, religion and contemporary society.

The studio and exhibition space function as a modern alchemist's laboratory, a place in which imagination and reason merge, and a mine from which the artist extracts materials and ideas. Van de Moortel transforms them into mystical feelings and thoughts, resulting in artworks that guide us in a rapidly changing world.

The artist explores the intricate and layered relationships between past, present and future, and how they shape us as we navigate between life and death, history and progress, futility and hope. In 'Rebels and Devils, a song from the heart' we find new paintings, watercolors, tarot cards, film, performance, sound and music in a setting that testifies to a profound search for a new mythology and spirituality, a fresh paradigm to encompass reality between past and future.

Until March 2nd 2025 Joris Van de Moortel has an extensive solo exhibition 'Hell on Earth, in search of PUR, NUR and FUR' at S.M.A.K. museum in Ghent Belgium. The exhibition at The Drawing Room Gallery is in alliance with this exhibition as part of the artist's personally acclaimed 'dubious pilgrimage'.





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