

DANGEROUS DRAWINGS

KARLMeersman Félicien**ROPS**

02 06 2023 - 29 08 2023

SATAN

Museum De Reede brings together two exceptional draughtsmen on the occasion of the birth of Félicien Rops exactly 190 years ago.

Rops is internationally regarded today as one of the very greatest illustrators of his time. He was an unusually sharp and critical observer of society, especially in the decadent Paris of the Fin de Siècle. A zeitgeist in which Rops portrayed women as depraved and diabolical. But Satan also turns up in the graphic work by grandmaster Rops.

SATER

Even today, the male-female relationship continues to firmly stir society. The Me-Too movement confronts us with power relations that no longer function today. Besides, what is a man and what is a woman? The society in which illustrator Karl Meersman lives and works is a different world from that of Rops.

Karl's work is therefore milder. His drawings allow interpretation and reflect on a faster moving and more complex society.

A certain relativisation in Karl Meersman's work makes it satirical rather than satanic.

SIMILAR

Besides this essential difference between the two artists, there are also fundamental similarities. Both started out as illustrators for magazines and books. Strongly politically interested and with an innate love for the 'métier'. By focusing so heavily on the technical side of their graphic work, they lift the cartoon to an unprecedented artistic level, each in his own era.

Simple but unconcealing materials like pencil, watercolour, gouache and pastel on paper represent for both artists a lifelong search (often also a struggle) for perfection.