

## Diederik Storms makes the invisible visible.

“The essence is invisible to the eyes” (From: ‘The Little Prince’ by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, 1943)

### What’s behind it?

Storms (1974): “Nature, more than anything else, confronts me with the question of what is invisibly present behind all that is alive. For that reason my sculptures often contain parts of old natural forms, such as tree trunks, petrified wood and old windswept trees. The hard materials, the cold steel and weather-beaten wood, oppose the light, clear plexiglass. The transparency of this material offers a literal spyhole on that which also could be, a suggestion of another hushed reality. In this, light plays an important role. The different shades of light intensity of the plexiglass give a continuously changing view of the visible image. In a way they expose something of the essence behind it.

### Contrasting materials

In order to show these contrasts Storms makes use of raw basic materials such as gathered wood and stones, but also petrified wood and steel. He combines these with clear plexiglass, also known as perspex or acrylate. This is a high-grade synthetic material that comes in sheets or blocks.

Storms: “Plexiglass is so special because it offers me the opportunity to “sculpt with light”. I do not make use of casting techniques. For my sculptures I use industrially fabricated materials in blocks. With sculpting techniques such as milling and chafing I carve and tool these, sometimes even using fine dental instruments”.

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