

Press Release

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For Immediate Release
Europe, Middle-East & Africa

MUTOH ZEPHYR UV PRINTER IN ACTION FOR WIDE FORMAT RIGID BOARD PRINTING

OUTDOOR FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITIONS

Oostende, BELGIUM. On the occasion of the cultural and musical festival Theater aan Zee (Theatre at the Seaside - TAZ#2009), to be held in Oostende, from July 30th until August 8th, wide format inkjet printer manufacturer Mutoh Europe accepted the challenge to digitally reproduce more than 50 unique fine art photographs for two outdoor photo exhibitions along the seaside. Photographs made by Danny Willems and Wim Vandekeybus were printed in one go on a Mutoh Zephyr UV printer, directly onto wide format PVC foam board panels. The two photo exhibitions – in total more than 250 m² of fine art prints - are now open to the wide public until end of August.

“For Mutoh Europe, this project represented an ideal test case to explore the limits of our Zephyr UV inkjet printer for wide format rigid board printing”, says Arthur Vanhoutte, Mutoh Europe’s Managing Director.

“For photo enlargements of this size, images are usually tiled into smaller sections to be joined together afterwards. However, this is not the most elegant way of processing neither presenting fine art photographs. All individual photographs for both exhibitions in Oostende were realized in one go onto our Zephyr UV printer. The photos were reproduced on 4 m wide by 1.5 m high Kömatex PVC foam board supplied by our media partner Vink (www.vink.be). Kömatex plate material is an ideal medium to enhance the impression of fine art photography. To be able to handle the 25 kg Kömatex boards, the input and output tables of our Zephyr were extended”, Vanhoutte comments.

“With this project, Mutoh proves the flexibility of our Zephyr UV printer for both roll and rigid printing and more specifically its capability to be an alternative for print jobs that are usually run on larger and more expensive UV printers. At the same time, it is a nice opportunity for us to present the capabilities of wide format inkjet printing to the wide public,” Vanhoutte concludes.

For an overview movie on the making of these wide format prints and the final result, follow :
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZhTexZWTmdw>

About the TAZ#2009 Photo Exhibitions

Both photo exhibitions are held outdoors under the cover of the Venetian Galleries in Oostende, along the beach, until end of August.

The first exhibition shows reproductions of analogue and digital photos taken by Danny Willems. The exhibition displays images of the life and performance of Arno Hintjens, an international pop artist. The photos are mostly black and white pictures, with a touch of colour.

The second exhibition displays colourful pictures by Wim Vandekeybus, mostly taken in South America and Africa. This exhibition shows animals and people interacting with the camera in breathtaking landscapes, demonstrating the power of wide format printing.

More info on Theater aan Zee 2009 can be viewed at :

<http://www.theateraanzee.be/index.php/en//>

About Mutoh's Zephyr UV Printer

Mutoh Europe's Zephyr is a CMYK 64" (165 cm) professional UV inkjet printer for roll-to-roll and rigid board printing up to a thickness of 20 mm. For roll printing, the machine incorporates a motorized unwinder/winder system with dancer bars for media rolls up to 100 kg. For rigid printing, media transport tables can be placed at the back and in front of the machine. Switching between rigid and roll printing is done in a trice.

The printer utilizes Mutoh proprietary flexible UV inks, specifically tuned for roll-to-roll printing. Still, the Zephyr UV inks were formulated to also allow printing onto a wide range of rigid substrates. The Zephyr UV printer produces top quality prints for close viewing distances between 3.5 and 7.5 m²/h. Prints for medium viewing distances can be produced at speeds between 15 and 20 m²/h. For larger viewing distances, print speeds up to 30 m²/h can be reached.

For further details on Mutoh's Zephyr UV printer: www.mutoh.eu

About Mutoh Europe nv.

Mutoh Europe nv, Belgium, is a business unit of Mutoh Holdings Co. Ltd., Japan. Founded in 1991, Mutoh Europe's activities encompass development, manufacturing and distribution of CAD/CAS hardware (professional sign cutting plotters and large-format full-colour piezo printers for CAD, commercial inkjet printing and sign making applications). More info on Mutoh Europe and its products can be found at www.mutoh.eu

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