

OVERGADEN.

Press release
February 2009

Jakob Jakobsen: Image Politics – Fragments of contemporary history considered as tragedy

Jeanette Hillig: Last Visit to Brøndby Strand

Exhibition period: 13 February – 11 April 2010

Preview: Friday 12 February 2010 5-8pm

Jakob Jakobsen: Image Politics – Fragments of contemporary history considered as tragedy



Video stills from the exhibition

“We don’t know what to say. The entire visual conception has been appropriated. This is the frame. We find ourselves inside the image. We recognise it. We don’t know what to say.”

A city begins to burn as you move through the blacked-out gallery, and a total installation draws you into a world of poetry and destruction. Like a theatrical performance in three acts, dramatic films and images unfold around you as you make your way through a war zone, a refugee camp and an urban space to the sound of a captivating choir.

In his first major solo exhibition in Denmark, Jakob Jakobsen will visualise aspects of recent history and challenge the role of the image as a political tool and phenomenon in today’s society. In the exhibition, the Territory, the Camp and the City are studied as scenes of current political conflicts and pictorial representations which influence the shaping of attitudes in society. The Territory will be examined through a documentary on the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, the Camp via images from the 2008 Close the Camp demonstration against the Sandholm Refugee Camp, and the City on the basis of images of the district of Nørrebro in flames on the nights of the 1st and 2nd of March 2007, following the storming of the Youth House.

Jakob Jakobsen’s exhibition confronts the bombardment of the public by images created by the media, artists and filmmakers, and the ways in which these images affect us. Wars and conflicts are often expressed in the form of a struggle to control images. Like a modern history painting with a dreamlike character, the exhibition depicts a society falling apart. But out of the tragedy grows the hope that something new can emerge ...

“I am interested in investigating negation, in examining what happens when the system breaks down. And in that breakdown, I see some possibilities,” says Jakob Jakobsen. “Art can contribute to discussing the form that the image takes. Art is about producing images – about producing the imaginary.”

In addition to the actual exhibition, *Image Politics* also encompasses two books, a film programme, a seminar and the play *AFKAK*, which takes the form of a bus trip through the city, in collaboration with The Royal Theatre. For more information, see: www.billedpolitik.dk.

Jakob Jakobsen (b. 1965) studied Comparative Literature at the University of Copenhagen, 1988-90, and at the Royal Danish Academy of Art, 1989-1995. He has helped to set up the artist-run Free University of Copenhagen (2001-2007), the organisation UKK, the television station tv-tv and the Close the Camp campaign (2008). He has participated in a wide range of international exhibitions over the past decade. Since 2006, he has been a professor at Funen Art Academy.

Jeanette Hillig: Last Visit to Brøndby Strand



Last visit to Brøndby Strand (2010)



4 1/2 I Springfield (2008)



Black Bamboo (2010)

A toilet seat, a dinghy, skis and lamps with yellow, green and white paint poured over them – step into a spatial spectacle of strong colours and appealing visual forms. At her solo exhibition at Overgaden, Jeanette Hillig presents a series of entirely new works which inquisitively rediscover objects in the borderland between painting and sculpture.

Everyday utensils are treated in a playful manner in Jeanette Hillig's universe. Things are pulled out of their usual contexts and forced into new constellations, where the intrinsic properties of the objects once again reassert themselves: the belt tightens, the spear impales, the elastic stretches. Hillig regards sculpture as made up of composite surfaces, and treats the materials – whether wall-mounted or free-standing – in an equivalent manner. On the one hand subtle and playful, and on the other precise and perfectionist, the works vacillate between disciplined and uncontrollable expressions.

With whimsical titles such as *Tina Turner's Hairdresser* and *20 Minutes in the Føtex Customer Centre*, Jeanette Hillig opens up the works to narrative. But behind the apparent lightness lies an intense interest in the materials, a desire to demystify visual art and an ambitious approach to the possibilities of painting. When Jeanette Hillig pulls paintings off the wall and spreads them around the room, she does so from a desire to invite the viewer right into the picture to explore what painting is, and can become.

“Much of my work is concentrated on the purely visual aspects – composing colours, shapes and surfaces. What can the materials do? What do they do to each other? How can I get them to play together or against each other?” asks Jeanette Hillig. “Painting can help to break down the significance of the objects. Things become something more than ordinary everyday objects, almost a form of the form.”

Jeanette Hillig (b. 1977) is a graduate of the Royal Danish Academy of Art (2008) and Staatliche Hochschule für Bildende Künste in Frankfurt (2005-2006). She recently presented the solo exhibitions *Refill at Unten Drunter* in Malmö, 2009, and *Kompost at Bredgade Kunsthandel, Copenhagen*, 2009.

Friday 12 February 2010 at 11am, Overgaden invites the press and others to view the exhibitions in the company of the artists. For further information, please contact press officer Marie Bruun Yde at e-mail: mby@overgaden.org, or tel. +45 3257 7273.

Press images in high resolution may be downloaded from our website: www.overgaden.org under 'Press' and 'Upcoming'.

Overgaden and the exhibitions are supported by the Danish Arts Council's Committee for Visual Art.

In addition, Jakob Jakobsen's exhibition is supported by The Culture and Leisure Administration, City of Copenhagen

Overgaden.
Institute of Contemporary Art
Overgaden Neden Vandet 17
DK-1414 Copenhagen K

Web: www.overgaden.org
Mail: info@overgaden.org
Tel. +45 3257-7273

Tuesday - Sunday: 1 pm - 5 pm, Thursday: 1 pm - 8 pm. Free admittance