

Kunsthall Aarhus præsenterer årets afgangsudstilling, *Afgang 19 – Coming Out*, fra Det Jyske Kunstakademi med nye værker af fem dimitterende kunstnere.

For Kunsthall Aarhus er det en særlig mulighed for at vise sig, hvad der rører sig på den unge professionelle kunstscene. Kunstnerne arbejder i år både med analoge såvel som digitale udtryk, og i udstillingen præsenteres vi for både collager, glasskulpturer, keramik, fotografi, performance og videoinstallation. Hver på sin måde er værkerne manifestationer af en sensibilitet over for det formløse, sprogløse og det, som falder mellem kategorier.

Udstillingstitlen fremhæver det insisterende arbejde med at skabe nye billeder og åbne op for flere betydningslag. Kunstnerne har valgt at udgive et billedbaseret portfolio frem for et mere formidlende udstillingskatalog. Her får de besøgende adgang til materialer fra den skabende proces: skitser, noter, poetiske tekster og referencer.

Presse

De dimitterende kunstnere står til rådighed for interviews med pressen 03.05.2019 i tidsrummet 11–15. Kontakt Sille Kirketerp Berthelsen for at lave en aftale.

Mads Borre

Star Eyed Baby

Digital collage på akryl, opslagstavle, indfarvet bomulds væv

Med afsæt i Kunsthall Aarhus' ovenlys har Mads Borre skabt to digitalt bearbejdede collageværker. De blander abstraktion og mere illustrative billeder i et på samme tid systemisk og antisystemisk forløb. Bløde, stoflige figurer både mimer og ignorerer gitterstrukturens hårde linjer i en dynamisk sameksistens af det rigide og organiske - som en slags queer bevægemønstre i en ellers konform verden. Collagerne har et klart slægtskab med opslagstavlens organiseringsprincipper og løst sammensatte billedflader som analoge modstykker til den digitale skærm. Men den umiddelbare kontakt er og bliver

illusorisk. Til at indkredse et mere intimt rum hænger lette og semi-transparente tekstiler ned fra loftet.

Matilde Mørk

Løber dit spor i sølv?

Installation, performance

Performere: Makiko Aoyama, Sophie Arstall, Gilles Polet, Camilla Stage, Emma-Cecilia Ajanki, Robert Logrell

”Det er et ansvar at lytte bedre, men en voldshandling at ville forstå”. Sådan afslutter Matilde Mørk en af sine tekster og sætningen er central for hendes installation. Med lungesneglen som protagonist har hun skabt et performativt og sorgbart miljø, hvor ordløs kommunikation dyrkes i dans - men også i savl som en slimet skrifttype, der bliver til sølv, når det størkner. En dokumentationsvideo viser performernes langsomme og til tider elektriske bevægelser om hinanden, hvilket antyder en nervesystemisk forbundethed, og deres talebobler af røg i glassneglehusene står tilbage som stille, fuldgældige udsagn.

Maiken Stæhr

The moon will teach you nothing

Installation, performance

Modeller: Markus Konstantin, Lucas Bergan

I en scenografisk disponeret installation lader Maiken Stæhr sterile og blanke overflader være fundamentet for et performativt værk. De dybblå klinker henleder tankerne til baderum; rum hvor kroppe behandles og vurderes.

Dryppende vand fra loftet varsler om utætheder og en ventilator sætter den stillestående luft i bevægelse. Det er et absurd scenarie, hvor forholdet mellem årsag og funktion, objekt og subjekt undersøges. En henlagt kulisse, som med jævne mellemrum animeres af to modeller iført draperede, skulpturerede porcelænsstykker, der besværliggør deres bevægelser.

Freja Støttrup

Smuldrende Lavendel

Digitalt bearbejdet fotografi

Ved at rette sin kameralinse mod sig selv og sine nærmeste, har Freja Støttrup skabt en personlig portrætserie, der med en enkel formulering kan siges at handle om relationer; ikke kun til andre men også de relationer, man kan have til sig selv og de selvbilleder, man har. Selvportrættet er derfor en tilbagevendende genre hos Støttrup, der betragter sit arbejde med fotografi som led i en kunstterapeutisk praksis. Ansigtet er dækket, ligesom kroppen kun optræder delvist, hvilket skaber en distance til det portrætterede i de ellers meget positivt stemte billeder.

Mark Tholander

They built the widened coral reef

Videoinstallation

I sit videoværk reflekterer Mark Tholander over tilværelsen som en vandring langs en linje. Vi præsenteres for en række situationer, hvor forskellige karakterer eksisterer i hver deres lukkede film-sæt, og ikke kun det; objekter – ja selv forgrund og baggrund - synes at glide forbi hinanden som parallelle narrativer, der aldrig mødes. Som når en restaurantejer i en af værkets scener ledsager sin huspianist gennem et tilsyneladende uendeligt industrikøkken, hvor kokkene snitter og hakker, så grøntsagerne flyver. Kun når noget forstyrrende, udefrakommende trænger ind som en parasit i fortællingen opstår desorientering og nye spor at følge.

Kurator og ekstern vejleder: Maria Bordorff

Maria Bordorff (1988) er uddannet fra Moderne Kultur og Kulturformidling på Københavns Universitet og er kritiker og skribent på Kunstkritikk. Derudover har hun været freelancekurator og del af den daglige ledelse på udstillingsstedet New Shelter Plan. Siden efteråret 2018 danner hun officielt kunstnerisk duo med billedkunstner Kirsten Astrup og er undervejs med et nyt filmværk, kommissioneret af Munchmuseet i Oslo.

I udstillingsperioden inviterer afgængerne til en række arrangementer, som vil blive annonceret løbende.

Fernisering: 03.05.2019, 17–20

Kunsthal Aarhus presents this year's MFA Degree Show, *Afgang 19 – Coming Out*, from DJK – The Jutland Art Academy, featuring new works by five graduating artists.

For Kunsthal Aarhus the MFA Degree Show offers a special opportunity to showcase what is going on within the young, professional art scene. This year's artists work with analogue as well as digital media, and the exhibition presents art based on collage, glass sculptures, ceramics, photography, performance and video installations. Each in their own way, the individual works are manifestations of a special sensitivity to the formless, the language-less, and all those things that evade categorisation. The exhibition title articulates this sensibility, emphasising the insistent effort to create new images and open up multiple layers of meaning. The artists have opted for an image-based portfolio rather than a more conventionally informative exhibition catalogue. In that way, the visitors have access to the processes behind the works, featuring sketches, notes, poetic texts and references.

Mads Borre

Star Eyed Baby

Digital collage on acrylic, notice board, dyed cotton mesh

Taking his point of departure in the skylights at Kunsthal Aarhus, Mads Borre has created two digitally processed collage works. They blend abstraction with more illustrative images, forming a sequence that is simultaneously systemic and anti-systemic. Soft, tactile figures both mimic and ignore

the hard lines of the grid structure in a dynamic coexistence of the rigid and organic – forming queer patterns of movement in an otherwise conformist world. The collages have a kinship with the organisational principles of a notice board, presenting loosely assembled images as analogue counterparts to a digital display. Still, the sense of immediate contact remains an illusion. A more intimate space is created by light, semi-transparent fabrics hanging from the ceiling.

Matilde Mørk

Løber dit spor i sølv?

Installation, performance

Performers: Makiko Aoyama, Sophie Arstall, Gilles Polet, Camilla Stage, Emma-Cecilia Ajanki, Robert Logrell

‘Listening better is a responsibility. Wanting to understand is an act of violence’. These are the concluding words of one of Matilde Mørk’s texts, and the sentence is central to her installation. Choosing the lung snail as a protagonist, she has created a performative and sorrow-full environment where wordless communication is cultivated in dance – but also in drool transformed into a slimy type of writing that turns into silver when it solidifies. A documentary video shows the performers’ slow, occasionally electric movements as they circle each other, suggesting a neurological-systemic connection. Contained within snail shells of glass, their speech bubbles of smoke remain as muted, yet fully-formed statements.

Maiken Stæhr

The moon will teach you nothing

Installation, performance

Models: Markus Konstantin, Lucas Bergan

In her scenographically arranged installation, Maiken Stæhr lets sterile, glossy surfaces act as the foundations of a performative work. The deep blue tiles prompt thoughts of spas and baths; spaces where bodies are treated and assessed. Dripping water from the ceiling warns us of leaks above, and a fan sets the stagnant air in motion. The totality is an absurd scenario exploring the relationship between cause

and effect, object and subject. An abandoned stage set, occasionally brought to life by two models wearing draped, sculpted porcelain pieces that obstruct their movements.

Freja Støttrup

Smuldrende Lavendel

Digitally processed photograph

By directing her camera towards herself and her loved ones, Freja Støttrup has created a personal portrait series that, simply put, can be said to be about relationships – not just with others, but also those relationships you have with yourself and your self image. Hence, self-portraits are a recurring genre in Støttrup's oeuvre, reflecting how the artist considers her work with photography part of an art therapy practice. The face is covered, and the body appears only partially, creating a sense of distance to the subjects portrayed in these otherwise very positive images.

Mark Tholander

They built the widened coral reef

Video installation

In his video work, Mark Tholander reflects on the idea of life as a long walk along a straight line. We are presented with a number of situations where different characters each exist in their own closed film sets. Not only that: objects – even the foreground and background – appear to slip past each other like parallel narratives that never meet. For example, one scene shows a restaurant owner accompanying his house pianist through a seemingly infinite industrial kitchen where chefs cut and chop, sending vegetables flying. Only when something disruptive enters the narrative from outside, like a parasite, does disorientation arise, prompting new tracks to follow.

Curator and external supervisor: Maria Bordorff

Maria Bordorff (1988) has an MA in Moderne Kultur og Kulturformidling from The University of Copenhagen and is an art critic and writer for *Kunstkritikk*. She has previously been a freelance curator and involved with the running of the exhibition venue New Shelter Plan. She has formally been part

of an artistic duo with artist Kirsten Astrup since the Autumn of 2018 and is currently working on a new film commissioned by Munchmuseet in Oslo.

During the exhibition period, the graduates will host a number of events to be announced on an ongoing basis.

Opening: 03.05.2019, 5–8 pm