



I udstillingen *The Work of Art and The Spiritualization of Self-empowerment* på Kunsthal Aarhus tager Steinar Haga Kristensen (f. 1980, Oslo, Norge) udgangspunkt i virtuelle 3D gengivelser af sine værker fra *La Période Brune / Den brune periode* (2015-2018). Igennem modernismen har flere kunstnere fået opdelt deres oeuvre i forskellige perioder, som står som et skifte i deres kunstneriske stil eller indhold. Det samme gælder for Steinar Haga Kristensen. *Den Brune Periode* viser, siger Haga Kristensen, "a very brown time, marked by the political, moral and identity struggles in today's world". Den brune periode er en form for eksistentiel suppe, en heroisk og kraftfuld kamp, en kamp igennem mudder og lort, mellem individet og det omgivende samfund og dets renhedsnormer. Der er tilbagevendende motiver, såsom *Prophète Malade / Syg profet*, som portrætterer den desillusionerede profet i et goldt og stoisk landskab. Den brune periode er en fragmenteret undersøgelse af individets problemstillinger i en tiltagende populistisk frem-march af korte svar på store og komplekse spørgsmål. Haga Kristensen arbejder med vrangsidens af de idealistiske strømninger og det efterhånden mere og mere ansigtsløse demokratiske projekt, der kendetegner dele af det tyvende århundrede. De store historier og idealer for individet og samfundet fra moderniteten og modernismen er i Haga Kristensens verden blevet til et opgivende vakuum af grimhed, der kun opretholder sin egen vægt med krykker. *Den brune periode* er et opråb til den tiltagende overfladiske konformitet og mig-kultur. Det er betragtninger og en gestus mod spirituel og individuel frigørelse (frifindelse) fra samfundet.

Haga Kristensen har 3D skannet og digitaliseret alle 97 værker fra perioden. Til udstillingen *The Work of Art and The Spiritualization of Self-empowerment* har kunstneren udvalgt motiver fra perioden, der indgår i ekstravagante relieffer, skulpturer og ornamenter, som danner rammen for nye monumentale værker. Installationen mimer på flere punkter kunst og monumenter, som vi kender dem fra totalitærstater og diktaturer. I udstillingen indgår desuden en dokumentarfilm om *Den brune periode*, for på denne måde at hjælpe beskueren igennem det komplekse forløb af værker og udtryk.

Støttet af:



Billede: Steinar Haga Kristensen, *The Work of Art and The Spiritualization of Self-empowerment*, 2018. Courtesy kunstneren.

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In his solo exhibition *The Work of Art and The Spiritualization of Self-empowerment* at Kunsthal Aarhus, Steinar Haga Kristensen (b. 1980, Oslo, Norway) take his starting point in virtual 3D-renditions of works from his *La Période Brune / The Brown Period* (2015–18). Up through the Modernist era, several artists have had their oeuvre divided up into different periods that represent changes in their artistic style or content. The same holds true for Steinar Haga Kristensen. According to the artist, his *Brown Period* signifies 'a very brown time, marked by the political, moral and identity struggles in today's world'. The *Brown Period* is a kind of existential soup, a heroic fight, a struggle through mud and shit, fought between the individual and society with its standards of purity and cleanliness. The works have certain recurring motifs, such as the *Prophète Malade / Sick Prophet* – portraying the disillusioned prophet in a barren, stoic landscape. *The Brown Period* is a fragmentary study of the issues facing us as individuals in an increasingly populist surge of brief answers to vast and complex questions. Haga Kristensen addresses the flip-side of idealistic movements and the increasingly faceless democratic project that characterises parts of the Twentieth Century. In Haga Kristensen's world, modernity and modernism's grand narratives and ideals for individuals and society have become a defeatist vacuum of ugliness. *The Brown Period* is a call out against an increasingly superficial conformity and self-absorbed culture, offering deliberations that point towards a spiritual and individual liberation (redemption) from society.

Haga Kristensen has 3D-scanned and digitised all 97 works from the period. For the exhibition *The Work of Art and The Spiritualization of Self-empowerment*, the artist has selected a range of subjects from the period, incorporating them into extravagant reliefs, sculptures and ornaments that form the framework of new monumental works. In many ways the installation mimics the kind of art and monuments familiar from totalitarian states and dictatorships. The exhibition also includes a video documentary about *The Brown Period*, helping viewers to get to grips with the complex body of works and modes of expression.

Supported by:



Image: Steinar Haga Kristensen, *The Work of Art and The Spiritualization of Self-empowerment*, 2018. Courtesy the Artist.

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# Steinar Haga Kristensen *The Work of Art and The Spiritua- lization of Self- empowerment*

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Kunsthal Aarhus  
J.M. Mørks Gade 13  
8000 Aarhus C  
[www.kunsthal aarhus.dk](http://www.kunsthal aarhus.dk)