

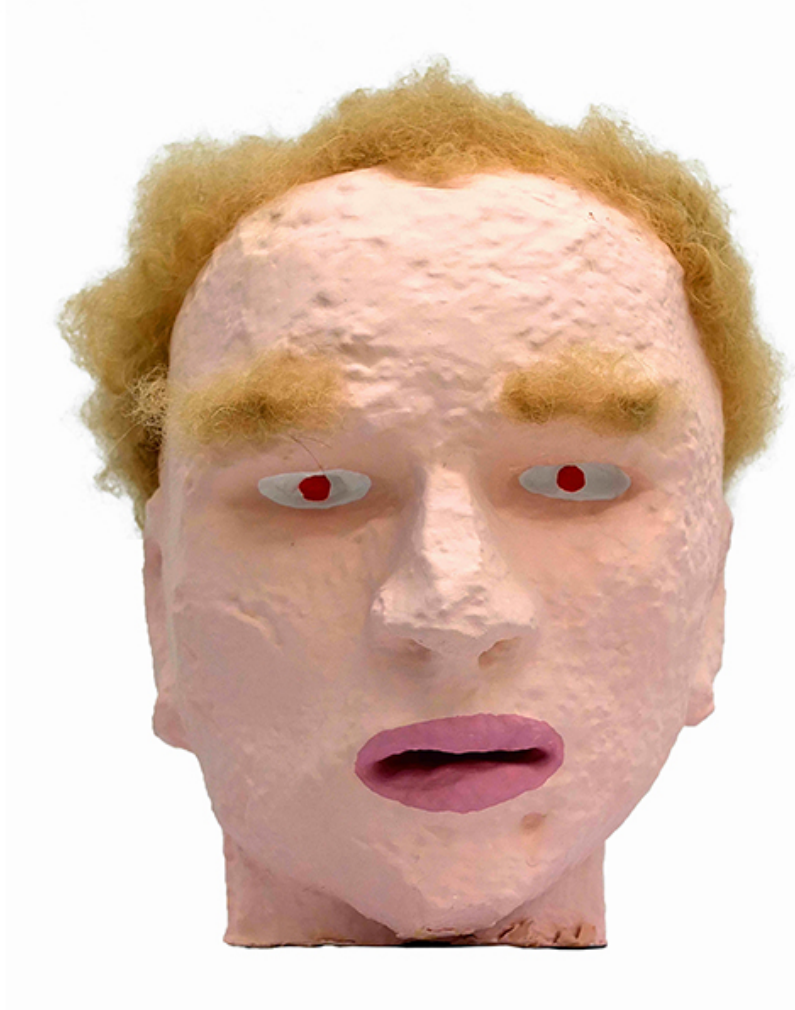
# Kunsthall Aarhus

Pressemeddelelse

Press Release

## Jos de Gruyter & Harald Thys / Steinar Haga Kristensen

### 26.10.2018–06.01.2019



Portræt af Steinar Haga Kristensen af Jos de Gruyter & Harald Thys (2018)

Kunsthall Aarhus præsenterer to nye    Kunsthall Aarhus presents two new

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## ***The Work of Art and The Spiritualization of Self-empowerment***

Den norske kunstner Steinar Haga Kristensen har skabt en udstilling, der bedst kan beskrives som en total(itær)installation. Værkerne er virtuelle 3D-gengivelser fra hans *La Période Brune*, som vækker associationer til diktaturer og totalitærstater.

### **KONKURS EKSPERTEN**

Den belgiske kunstnerduo Jos de Gruyter og Harald Thys, som er udvalgt til at repræsentere deres hjemland ved Venedig Biennalen i 2019, lægger forinden vejen forbi Kunsthal Aarhus, hvor de viser deres første institutionelle udstilling i Danmark nogensinde.

Udover de tre kunstnere vil både den belgiske og den norske ambassadør i Danmark deltage i ferniseringen.

**Fernisering**  
26.10.2018 17–21

**Pressekontakt**  
communications@kunsthal.dk

**Pressefotos**  
Jos de Gruyter & Harald Thys  
Steinar Haga Kristensen

## ***The Work of Art and The Spiritualization of Self-empowerment***

The Norwegian artist Steinar Haga Kristensen has created an exhibition with what is best described as a total(itarian) installation. The art works are virtual 3D-reproductions from his *La Période Brune*, which creates associations to dictatorships and totalitarian states.

### **KONKURS EKSPERTEN**

The Belgian artist duo Jos de Gruyter and Harald Thys, who have been selected to represent Belgium at the Venice Biennale in 2019, will visit Kunsthal Aarhus with their first institutional exhibition in Denmark ever.

Besides the three artists, both the Belgian and the Norwegian Ambassadors in Denmark will participate in the opening.

**Opening**  
26.10.2018, 5–9pm

**Press contact**  
communications@kunsthal.dk

**Press photos**  
Jos de Gruyter & Harald Thys  
Steinar Haga Kristensen

# Jos de Gruyter & Harald Thys

# ROMAN EKSPERTEN



Jos de Gruyter & Harald Thys. Images courtesy of dépendance, Brussels. Photos by Kristien Daem.

I Kunsthall Aarhus følger Jos de Gruyter & Harald Thys deres nuværende interesse og udstiller en serie af nye og tidligere producerede hoveder. De mere end 40 små skulpturelle buster er lavet af gips, falsk hår og maling, som er placeret på hylder i hele udstillingslokalet. De 3D-printede ansigter forestiller, internationalt kendte politikere, diktatorer, B-film-skuespillere, mordere og deres ofre, offentligt kendte og private venner, nulevende og afdøde historiske personer. Personerne er portrætteret uden hierarki eller moralsk dom. Her er alle lige. Lige skræmmende, lige uskyldige. Lige flade, ubevægelige og stereotyp.

At Kunsthall Aarhus, Jos de Gruyter & Harald Thys focus on their current main field of interest, showing a series of newly and earlier produced heads. The more than 40 small sculptural busts are made of plaster, fake hair and paint. The faces are placed on small shelves throughout the gallery space. All of these 3D-printed plaster heads represent internationally known politicians, dictators, B-movie actors, murderers and their victims, public and familiar figures and historical people living or dead. The people are presented without any hierarchy or moral judgment. They all appear equal. Equally frightening and equally innocent. Equally flat,

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der rummer beskrivelser og fotografier af alle de portrætterede mennesker og deres historier, gravalvorlige og dødeligt morsomme.

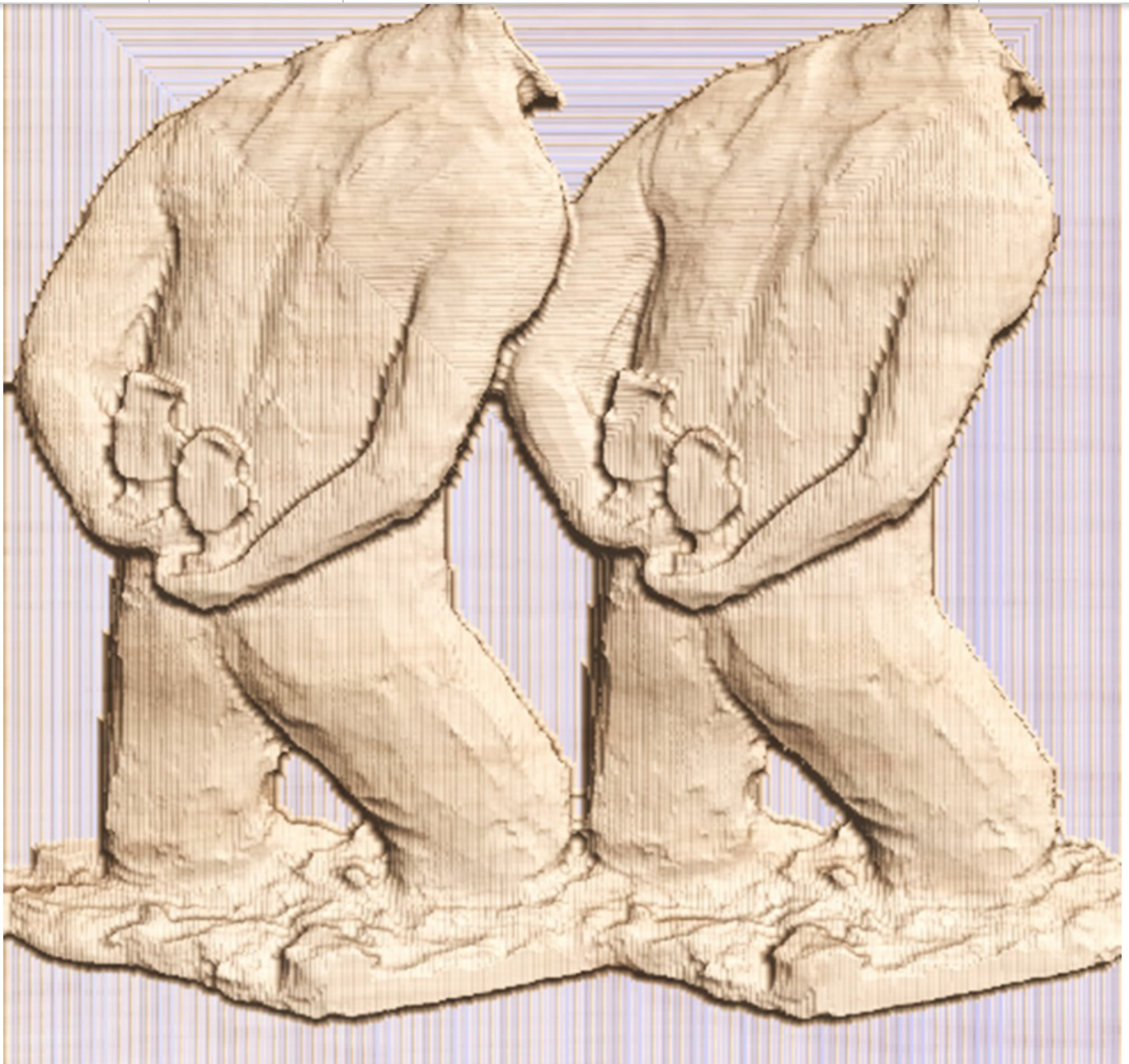
**Jos de Gruyter & Harald Thys** har arbejdet sammen siden 1987, hvor de mødte hinanden på Sint Lucas University College of Arts i Bruxelles. Siden har duoen stået bag adskillige soloudstillinger i hele verden, heriblandt på Among these, Kunstverein Munich, Munich (2017), Triennale di Milano, Milan (2017), Portikus, Frankfurt (2016), CAC, Vilnius, (2016), MoMA PS1, New York (2015), Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (2015) og CCA Wattis, San Francisco (2015). Derudover har duoen deltaget i adskillige internationale gruppeudstillinger som fx Berlin Biennalen (2008) og Venedig Biennalen (2013), hvor de i øvrigt er blevet udvalgt til at repræsentere Belgien endnu en gang.

The exhibition is accompanied by a guide with individual descriptions and photographs of all 47 characters and their stories, both deadly serious and funny.

**Jos de Gruyter (b. 1965) & Harald Thys (b. 1966)** have worked together since 1987, where they meet at Sint Lucas University College of Arts i Bruxelles. Their work has since been presented in solo shows hosted by contemporary art institutions around the world. Among these, Kunstverein Munich, Munich (2017), Triennale di Milano, Milan (2017), Portikus, Frankfurt (2016), CAC, Vilnius, (2016), MoMA PS1, New York (2015), Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (2015), CCA Wattis, San Francisco (2015). Furthermore, the duo has participated in a number of international group shows such as the Berlin Biennale (2008), the 55th Venice Biennial (2013) and in 2019 they will inhabit the Belgium pavilion during the Venice Biennale. Jos de Gruyter and Harald Thys live and work in Brussels.

# Steinar Haga Kristensen

## *The Work of Art and The Spiritualization of Self-empowerment*



Steinar Haga Kristensen

Til udstillingen *The Work of Art and The Spiritualization of Self-empowerment* i Kunsthall Aarhus har Steinar Haga Kristensen 3D-skannet alle 97 værker fra det, han selv kalder *La Période Brune* – hans brune periode (2015-2018). De digitaliserede motiver danner rammen for nye ekstravagante relieffer, skulpturer og ornamenter.

I den brune periode undersøger Haga Kristensen individets problemer under en stadig mere insisterende populistisk fremmarch af korte svar på store og komplekse

In his solo exhibition *The Work of Art and The Spiritualization of Self-empowerment* at Kunsthall Aarhus, Steinar Haga Kristensen has 3D-scanned all 97 works from what, he calls *La Période Brune* – his brown period (2015–18). The digitalised subjects are the framework for new extravagant reliefs, sculptures and ornaments.

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. The flip-side of

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stadig mere ansigtsløse demokrati er essentielt, når Haga Kristensen portrætter visse dele af det tyvende århundrede. 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.

**Steinar Haga Kristensen (f.1980)** har studeret på The National Academy of Art i Oslo og The Academie der Bilden Kunst i Vienna. Haga Kristensen har efterfølgende boet og arbejdet i Bruxelles i flere år. I dag er han bosat og arbejder i Oslo.

project is essential when Haga Kristensen characterises parts of the Twentieth Century. 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.

**Steinar Haga Kristensen (b. 1980)** studied at the National Academy of Art in Oslo and at the Academie der Bilden Kunst, Vienna. Haga Kristensen later spent several years living and working in Brussels. Today he lives and works in Oslo

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