





Kunstnerduoen Jos de Gruyter (f. 1965) og Harald Thys (f. 1966) præsenterer deres første institutionelle udstilling i Danmark i Kunsthall Aarhus. I de tredive år, de har arbejdet sammen – fra deres første møde på Sint Lucas University College of Arts i Bruxelles i 1987 – har Jos de Gruyter og Harald Thys skabt en heterogen og kompleks serie af værker. De har inkluderet blandt andet video, tegning, skulptur, installation og performance i deres arbejde. Kunstnerne har gennem tiden skabt talrige skulpturer og videoer, der gør brug af dukker og portrætter. De er særligt interesserede i, hvordan mennesket opfører sig alene og i grupper. Mange af de afbildede figurer kan beskrives som marginaliserede i samfundet. Deres ansigter og kroppe er ofte stiliserede eller endog abstrakte og fremstår nærmest som karikaturer i en absurd, kunstig verden.

I Kunsthall Aarhus forfølger de deres nuværende interesse og producerer 17 skulpturelle hoveder, lavet af gips, kunstigt hår og maling, der indgår i en allerede eksisterende værkserie. De 3D-printede gipsansigter af internationale politikere, diktatorer, B-film-skuespillere, venner, mordere og ofre, offentlige personer og genkendelige figurer, nulevende og afdøde historiske personer er præsenteret uden nogen form for hierarki eller moralsk dom. Ligegyldigt hvad deres historiske betydning eller rolle er, så fremstår de alle lige (lige skræmmende og lige uskyldige), flade, ubevægelige og stereotyp. Ansigterne er placeret på små hylder i en lige linje, der løber hele vejen rundt langs væggene i det 500 m<sup>2</sup> store udstillingsrum – en tilsyneladende nøgtern fremstilling. Samtidig er der monteret institutionsagtige grå væg-til-væg tæpper på gulvene i udstillingsrummene.

Udstillingen er ledsaget af en bog, der rummer beskrivelser og fotografier af alle 43 portrætterede mennesker og deres historier. De forskellige beskrivelser er både gravalvorlige og morsomme – f.eks. fortællingen om Abdou le Fou (10. august 1966-?): Abdou le Fou (Tåben Abdou) fik sit tilnavn i en tidlig alder på grund af sin psykopatiske og uforudsigelige natur. Han kunne nidstirre andre mennesker så længe, at de helt bogstaveligt tisede i bukserne af skræk. Det hed sig, at han kunne sætte ild til genstande blot ved at stirre på dem. Han talte så godt som aldrig, og når han gjorde, var det kun en hvisken. Han forsvandt pludselig fra jordens overflade. Selv om nogen hævder at have set hans hovedløse krop gå rundt i universitetsparken i Leuven ...

Støttet af:



Billede: Jos de Gruyter & Harald Thys, KONKURS EKSPERTEN, 2018. Courtesy kunstnerne.

Galleri ④+⑤

The artist duo Jos de Gruyter (B. 1965) and Harald Thys (B. 1966) present their first institutional exhibition in Denmark at Kunsthall Aarhus. During their thirty years of working together – from their first meeting at Sint Lucas University College of Arts of Brussels in 1987 – Jos de Gruyter and Harald Thys have created a heterogeneous and complex body of works. Their choice of media include video, drawing, sculpture, installation and performance art. The artists have made numerous sculptures and videos that use puppets and portraits as their subject. One of their main interests is portraying human behaviour, alone and in groups. The characters portrayed are often those that can be considered marginalised in society. The faces and bodies are frequently simplified or even abstract, presented almost as caricatures in an absurd, artificial world.

At Kunsthall Aarhus, they focus on their current main field of interest, producing a new series of 17 small sculptural heads made of plaster, fake hair and paint, included into an existing series of works. All of these 3D-printed plaster faces of international politicians, dictators, B-movie actors, friends, murderers and victims, public and familiar figures, historical people living or dead, are presented without any hierarchy or moral judgment. No matter what their historical importance or role, they all appear equal (equally frightening and equally innocent), flat, motionless and stereotyped. The faces are placed on small shelves in a straight line, all along the walls throughout the 500 m<sup>2</sup> gallery space in a seemingly deadpan presentation. Institution-grey wall-to-wall carpet is installed on the floor throughout the gallery rooms.

The exhibition is accompanied by a book with individual descriptions and photographs of all 43 characters and their stories. The individual descriptions are both deadly serious and funny – Abdou le Fou (10 August 1966 – ?) from Belgium is one example: Abdou le Fou (Abdou the Fool) earned his nickname at an early age thanks to his psychopathic and unpredictable character. He could stare at people so long that they would literally pee in their pants. Rumour has it he was able to set objects on fire just by looking at them. He hardly ever spoke but when he did he would whisper. He suddenly disappeared from the earth. Though some swear they saw his headless body walking around at the university campus of Leuven ...

Supported by:



Image: Jos de Gruyter & Harald Thys, KONKURS EKSPERTEN, 2018. Courtesy the Artists.

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# Jos de Gruyter & Harald Thys

## KONKURS

## EKSPERTEN

26.10.2018–  
06.01.2019

Kunsthall Aarhus

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