



To the press

Fredrik Vørslev

«Tan Lines»

11 November 2017 - 14 January 2018

Press preview: Friday, 10 November 2017, 11 a.m.

Opening: Friday, 10 November 2017, 6 p.m.

The Norwegian artist Fredrik Vørslev (*1979, lives and works in Drammen/NO and Vestfossen/NO) has made an impression through his extensive painterly practice, which despite precise planning and execution always leaves space for coincidence. For example, he exposes his works to the weather, hangs his canvases on display on trees for months, or offers artist colleagues his own works for interventions. He thus celebrates a defined painterly gesture and carries the idea of appropriation to extremes. At Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen Vørslev surprises the visitors with an overall painterly installation which manifests itself between abstraction and the haptic reality of the materials used.

Two new work groups are being presented for the first time at Vørslev's exhibition «Tan Lines». The first includes canvases hanging in space, which face the second series of works on the wall as an installative whole. The monumental 'Sail Paintings' are assembled from variously worked pieces of canvas that have been brought together to produce a composition that is reminiscent of a boat's sail. The series works as a complex hybrid: Vørslev cuts up, combines, integrates and then minutely sews together earlier and newly created paintings. The procedure of deconstruction and reconstruction creates a connection to the fragmentary work process both visually and in terms of content. In doing so Vørslev constantly eludes classification of the works, which might range from abstraction to decoration or representation. The 'Sail Paintings' create a landscape in Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen, which moves between seemingly realistic scenery and artistic fiction.

The symbolism depicted on the sails includes, among other things, certain codes which on the one hand point to a maritime environment and on the other to the artist's immediate surroundings. The symbols act as much as signatures as gestures, and serve for contextualisation in that they leave traces of their environment on the surface. One will find the year of the artist's birth as well as his initials, but also the international code for Norway and a modified version of the Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen logo.

The second work group presented at the exhibition is composed of 'Garden Paintings', on which Vørslev has been working intensely in recent years. The wooden boards, mounted on metal frameworks and presented on the wall, oscillate between being minimalist painting and playful sculptural installation, and instinctively bring to mind a garden fence or benches protruding from the wall at eye level. The wooden slats have been repeatedly coated with both varnish and polish, and thus treated with the same restoration methods that are used for the maintenance of old wooden boats and of benches in classical museums. This almost performative, repetitive gesture culminates in a transparent layer that is saturated with liquid. Robbed of their original function and newly arranged on the wall, the slats transform from useful objects to surfaces glistening and reflecting with varnish. The exhibition space, viewers and the 'Sail Paintings' are reflected and thus enter an intriguing dialogue.

«Tan Lines» will subsequently travel to Bonner Kunstverein (February 2018) and to Fondazione Giuliani in Rome (September 2018). An artist's book will be published in spring by Sternberg Press and will accompany the exhibition tour.

Fredrik Vørslev (*1979 in Moss/NO) lives and works in Drammen/NO and Vestfossen/NO. His works have lately been shown at the following exhibitions: Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York (2017); Gió Marconi, Milano; Kunsthal Aarhus, Aarhus/DK; Le Consortium, Dijon/FR; Bergen Kunsthall, Bergen/NO (2016); STANDARD (OSLO), Oslo; Museo Marino Marini, Florence; Centre d'art contemporain - Passerelle, Brest/FR (2015); The Power Station, Dallas; Lumiar Cité, Lissabon (2014); Indipendenza, Rome; Front Desk Apparatus, New York (2012). Group exhibitions (selection): The National Museum, Oslo; INDEX Foundation, Stockholm; National Art School Gallery, Sydney; Ramiken Crucible, New York (2017); Centre Pompidou, Paris (2016); Astrup Fearnley Museet, Oslo; Moderna Museet, Stockholm; Gavin Browns Enterprise, New York (2015); Overduin & Co, Los Angeles; Lunds Konsthall, Lund/SE (2014); The Modern Institute, Glasgow/UK (2013).

Events and Educational Programme:

Opening

Friday, 10 November 2017, 6 p.m.

Guided Tour I/Introduction for Teachers

Tuesday, 14. November 2017, 6 p.m.

Painting Afternoon – For children from 4 to 8 years-old

Wednesday, 22 November 2017, 2 p.m.

Admission: CHF 5; registration until the previous day at: info@k9000.ch

Art Lunch – Guided tour followed by lunch

Thursday, 30 November 2017, 12 noon

Admission: CHF 25/members CHF 22; registration at info@k9000.ch

Art Snack – Short guided tour and a snack

Thursday, 14 December 2017, 12.30 p.m.

Admission: CHF 10/members CHF 7; no registration required

Guided Tour II

Sunday, 14 January 2018, 3 p.m.

Workshops for School Classes

From 15 November on we are offering workshops at the exhibition.

More information: www.k9000.ch (Art Education/Workshops for School Classes)

High-resolution images can be found in the press kit on our website under 'Press'. For further questions please contact Giovanni Carmine (carmine@k9000.ch) or Maren Brauner (brauner@k9000.ch).

The exhibition «Tan Lines» is supported by the E. Fritz und Yvonne Hoffmann-Stiftung, Office for Contemporary Art Norway (OCA) and the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Berne.

The Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen is supported by St.Gallen City Council, Kulturförderung Kanton St.Gallen, Swisslos, Fondation Nestlé pour l'Art (Partenariat), Migros-Kulturprozent, Martel AG. The educational programme is made possible by Raiffeisen and Kulturförderung Appenzell Ausserrhoden.

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Opening times:
Tues to Fri 12 noon – 6 p.m.
Sat & Sun 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.