

## PRESS RELEASE

Exhibition at Århus Kunstbygning, J.M. Mørks Gade 13, 8000 Århus, Denmark

### **J&K / Janne Schäfer and Kristine Agergaard**

*The Perfect Stage*

26th June – 15th August 2010

Opening Friday 25th June 5 pm – 10 pm with artistic DJs and drinks.

#### **Does the perfect world exist?**

J&K's new installation is one large collage that takes the form of an abstract mountain landscape. The landscape is composed of a mixture of objects, textiles, video, paper collages, stage elements, paintings, sound and light. The work functions both as installation and as the stage for a performance and a non-existent film where mankind's quest for perfection is explored.

It all takes form as a subtle universe: a stage design, a parallel world, a psychedelic, brilliantly coloured landscape. And in this landscape the journey to the top of the mountain will give the illusion of the artists' search for a perfect state or world.

The Perfect Stage is inspired by the film *The Holy Mountain* (Alejandro Jodorowsky, 1973) and the novel *Mount Analogue* (René Daumal, 1944).

#### **The artists**

The artist duo Janne Schäfer (D) and Kristine Agergaard (DK), alias J&K, trained as visual artists at the Chelsea College of Art and Design in London, the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen, and the Universität der Künste in Berlin. For several years they have worked with signs and clichés in an entertaining, colour-saturated universe. With their humour and surprising, almost shameless pilfering from the symbolic worlds of different cultures they lead the public into constructed worlds where neo-colonial and cross-cultural issues are explored and thematized.

### **Shezad Dawood**

*Intensive Surfaces*

26th June – 15th August 2010

Opening Friday 25th June 5 pm – 10 pm with artistic DJs and drinks.

#### **The Wild West takes over Århus Kunstbygning**

With the exhibition *Intensive Surfaces* the London-based artist Shezad Dawood creates a complex and sometimes bizarre universe based on the western. The focal point in *Intensive Surfaces* is the film *Feature*, a staged modern western that combines various film genres and involves figures from religious and cultural contexts. In the film the artist appears as the Hindu god Krishna, who in the form of Billy the Krishna rides around with a following of leather-clad cowboys. The film is shown in fully built-up western scenery and the exhibition consists of one overall stage design involving video, installation and painting.

*Intensive Surfaces* humorously and colourfully challenges cultural, ethnic and religious identities, stereotyped roles and mythological tales.

The exhibition is brought into play in several sessions by way of workshops and film showings. The final programme can be seen at Århus Kunstbygning's website around the time of the exhibition opening.

#### **The artist**

Shezad Dawood (b. 1974) trained at the Royal College of Art in London. He is a much sought-after artist on the international art scene and has exhibited at among other places the Venice Biennale in 2009, in Istanbul, Mumbai, Dubai and London. *Intensive Surfaces* is Shezad Dawood's first exhibition in Denmark.