



ÅRHUS KUNSTBYGNING

J. M. MØRKS GADE 13 DK-8000 ÅRHUS C
TLF. 86 20 60 50 FAX 86 12 46 16

**Mark Dion
CONCERNING HUNTING**

June 28 – October 26, 2008

Concerning Hunting is a unique exhibition about the complex relationship between hunting and nature. Most conspicuous is the installation of five hunting blinds measuring up to eight meters in height. The visitors are invited to enter intimate spaces each telling its own story about different types of hunters and their relationship to hunting. *The Glutton* (Hall A) is the space of a fond eater, where hunting has turned into a consumption party with sausages, meat, wine and cigars. Right next to it you'll find an overturned hunting blind, *The Ruin* (Hall A), where weapons and clothes are spread out all over the place. *The Librarian* (Hall C) indicates a hunter whose theoretical knowledge of hunting overshadows his practical skills and desire to kill animals. *The Dandy-Rococo* (Hall C) elevates the atmosphere to an ornamented Rococo-style with crystal glasses, a chandelier, silver dishes and hunting trophies. Finally *The Slob* (Hall D) presents the sloppy hunter's space, where beer cans, cigarette butts and used cartridges are spread out among animal traps, wrinkled clothes and porn magazines. These spaces have an authentic presence, but at the same time they function as a sort of museum-like space left by the hunter, so that now they present themselves as historical residue.

Moreover the exhibition contains six hunting standards, the installation *The Great Hunter at Home plus Men and Game*; 120 photographs of hunters and their prey. The photographs have been collected at flea markets all over the world and have been supplemented with photographs from Denmark.

For over 20 years Mark Dion has worked as a visual artist to uncover and present the complex culture of nature. Dion's presentation of the hunting culture takes an objective approach that leaves it to the visitor to interpret the topic. In this way the audience is not only challenged to examine the details of the works but also to relate to the works and their themes in a subjective manner. The exhibition presents itself as a festival for the senses, providing stories for children and adults alike. At the same time it is rooted in a relevant discussion about the relationship between nature, culture and historiography.

Mark Dion (b. 1961, USA) graduated from the School of Visual Arts in New York in 1984 and is working within the fields of drawing, photography and installations. He has participated in a number of exhibitions in Europe as well as the USA.

In connection with the exhibition the Aarhus Art Building collaborates with the Danish Hunters' Association about a series of exciting activities. In August and September a number of activities will be arranged for children, where a nature guide and an art historian will tell stories about hunting, nature and art. In the fall break it is possible to sign up for a family day, where a short introduction at the Art Building will be followed by a trip to Kalø, where everybody is invited to participate in a hunting. Check www.aarhuskunstbygning.dk for further information about these activities.

Concerning Hunting is the result of an international collaboration between Denmark, Austria, Germany and Italy and has been curated by the director of the Kunsthalle Krems, Dr. Dr. Dieter Buchhart, and MA Verena Gamper. German Hatje Cantz Verlag will publish a 160-page catalogue with texts written by the curators Dieter Buchhart and Verena Gamper, curator Angela Vettese and professor, dr.phil. Jacob Wamberg. The exhibition is sponsored by the BG Fund, the C.A.C. Fund, Knud Højgaard's Fund, Max Bank and the Danish Hunters' Association.



