

Press Release

Friday, June 27, 2008, at 17:00 the Aarhus Art Building presents the opening of:

Mark Dion CONCERNING HUNTING

June 28 – October 26, 2008

Concerning Hunting is a unique exhibition about the complex relationship between hunting and nature. For over 20 years Mark Dion has worked as a visual artist to uncover and present natural history in an aesthetic way. His installations, institutional interventions, sculptures and photographic projects all investigate the complex culture of nature. The exhibition presents itself as a festival for the senses, providing stories for children and adults alike. At the same time it enters into a discussion about the relationship between nature, culture and historiography.

First and foremost *Concerning Hunting* is a detailed collection and adaptation of objects and documents representing different aspects of the hunting culture. Most conspicuous is the installation of five hunting blinds measuring up to eight meters in height. The visitors are invited to climb ladders and enter into intimate spaces each relating its own story about different types of hunters and their relationship to hunting. For instance we meet the well-read hunter with his book case and well-cared-for hunting equipment; the consuming hunter with sausages, wine and cigars; and the sloppy hunter, whose used cartridges are spread out over the floor along with beer cans 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 hunting banners, targets, drawings plus 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.

Dion's presentation of the hunting culture takes an objective approach that leaves it to the onlooker to interpret the topic. In this way the visitors are 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 will be opened by MA and freelance curator Anna Karina Hofbauer and Mark Dion will be present at the opening. At the opening reception nature guide Niels Frost from the Danish Hunters' Association will prepare and serve venison in the Art Building's courtyard and happily supplies cooking tips for the audience.

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.

The exhibition 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. In connection with the exhibition the 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 and the Danish Hunters' Association.

For further information or appointments for interviews please contact Anne Fogtmann Madsen at (+45) 86 20 60 55 or send a mail to af@aarhuskb.dk. Press photographs can be downloaded from our web site: www.aarhuskunstbygning.dk

Sincerely,

Pernille Lyngsø

Exhibition coordinator
The Aarhus Art Building