

FREDRIK VÆRSLEV

ALL AROUND AMATEUR

Including collaborative works with Matias Faldbakken, Allison Katz, Stewart Uoo and Josh Smith

26 MAY – 14 AUGUST
KUNSTHALLEN

Fredrik Værsløv's Festival Exhibition at Bergen Kunsthall is his largest solo show to date and comprises two distinct series of new paintings. One group of works are integrated into Bergen Kunsthall's modernist gallery spaces as a meticulously planned architectural installation of painted canvases. For the other, Værsløv has collaborated with several international artists – Matias Faldbakken, Stewart Uoo, Josh Smith and Allison Katz – on his ongoing series of *Shelf Paintings*.

When encountering a new exhibition by Fredrik Værsløv, there is by now an established expectation towards his work: a distanced painterly practice where the action – painting – is constantly held at arm's length. When exhibited, his works can often appear as if on a stage, performing or acting a role, or taking on the part of an architectural or functional object, deployed in direct response to their environment. For this exhibition at Bergen Kunsthall, however, these new works occupy what at first appears a more traditional display format.

Værsløv has created a group of new works based on images of sunsets that he has photographed on his iPhone from airplane windows. These banal but seductive images provide a starting point for a series of large-scale multi-canvas paintings that address the condition, production and status of painting today, as well as the ongoing legacies of Greenbergian modernism and ideas of abstraction, figuration and the painterly sublime.

Made in series, the works are produced using a mechanical trolley usually employed for marking lines on roads or sports fields. The artist and his assistant load the contraption with a can of spray paint – available in four standard colors: red, blue, yellow and white –

before wheeling it along the lengths of canvas, laying down the individual stripes of color which they then rub down with turpentine, blending and mixing the pigments to greater or lesser degrees in an attempt to produce the suggestion or 'effect' of the sunset.

Through their mechanistic, industrial production these works complicate ideas of painterly surface, gesture and originality, whilst at the same time alluding to both Abstract Expressionism and a more functional language of municipal murals, urban graffiti or painted hoardings. Installed in a bespoke architectural intervention in the galleries of Bergen Kunsthall, they have been recessed seamlessly into the walls, evoking the work of artists as diverse as Mark Rothko, Edvard Munch and Michael Asher, as well as a kind of theatrical scenography or architectural frieze.

Alongside these monumental works, Værsløv has installed a new group of *Shelf Paintings*, part of an on-going series Værsløv began whilst still a student at the Städelschule, in Frankfurt. Initially developed after a conversation with the artist's mother, and her desire to find a way to incorporate Værsløv's work into the environment of her home, they attempt to accommodate painting as both artwork and object. Addressing ideas of display, authorship, appropriation and domesticity, they are produced in collaboration with Værsløv's friends and peers and exemplify the very open and collaborative nature of much of his work.

Værsløv provides a simple wooden shelf structure, which the invited artist is free to intervene with as they wish, often without any further involvement from Værsløv. Installed in the gallery spaces at Bergen Kunsthall, they seem to represent these artists very directly – gures set against the ground of those long,

empty sunsets. At the same time they introduce a different scale, depth or speed to the exhibition, acknowledging the on-going conversations that Værsløv and his work are engaged in, and positioning himself and his own practice within a highly social, reciprocal and active community.

In all of Værsløv's work he can be seen to navigate between various different painterly traditions, as well as the wider legacies of conceptual art and institutional critique. He demonstrates how painting continues to offer the potential for personal expression, as well as conceptual and intellectual investigation. In some ways he might be seen to treat the painting as an object in line with other objects, subjecting them to wind, wear and weather (as demonstrated in the piece he has made for the billboard on the back of Bergen Kunsthall), or using them more like props in the construction of his exhibitions. But however much he stretches the forms and modes of their production and reception, he nonetheless has something invested absolutely in painting as a process, and in paintings as paintings.

Fredrik Værsløv (b. 1979) lives and works in Vestfossen and Drammen.

Curated by Martin Clark and Steinar Sekkingstad.
Text: Martin Clark and Steinar Sekkingstad

The exhibition will travel to Le Consortium in Dijon, France, 18 November 2016 - 19 February 2017.

RELATED EVENTS

Opening

26 May, 1pm

Guided tours

Every Sunday, 2pm

25 May, 5pm Members tour

29 May, 1pm Families

Platform

Saturday 28 May at 1pm

Fredrik Værsløv in conversation with Le Consortium curator Anne Pontégnie

Thursday 9 June at 7pm

A lecture by critic and writer Ina Blom, *Sympathy for the Zombie*, on Fredrik Værsløv

Publication

Fredrik Værsløv

All Around Amateur

Texts by Ina Blom, Martin Clark, Anne Pontégnie and Steinar Sekkingstad

Published by Bergen Kunsthall, Le Consortium and Sternberg Press, 2016

This new artist publication, designed by Fraser Muggeridge studio, comes in two different versions, each containing a sequence of 1:1 scale images, scanned directly from the surfaces of eight of Værsløv's new paintings. Each canvas produces a total of 80 scanned images, reproduced in the book left to right, top to bottom. The two versions of the book contain scans of the first four and second four canvases respectively, complementing each other by together comprising the full series of eight paintings, reproduced across 640 full size scans.

Edition

Fredrik Værsløv

Untitled (Sunset 1 – 26), 2016

Spray-paint on canvas, wood.

No. 1; 63,5 × 40 × 2 cm

No. 2 – 25; 63,5 × 26 × 2 cm

No. 26; 63,5 × 29 × 2 cm

Edition of 20 + 6 APs. All unique.

Signed and numbered on backside.

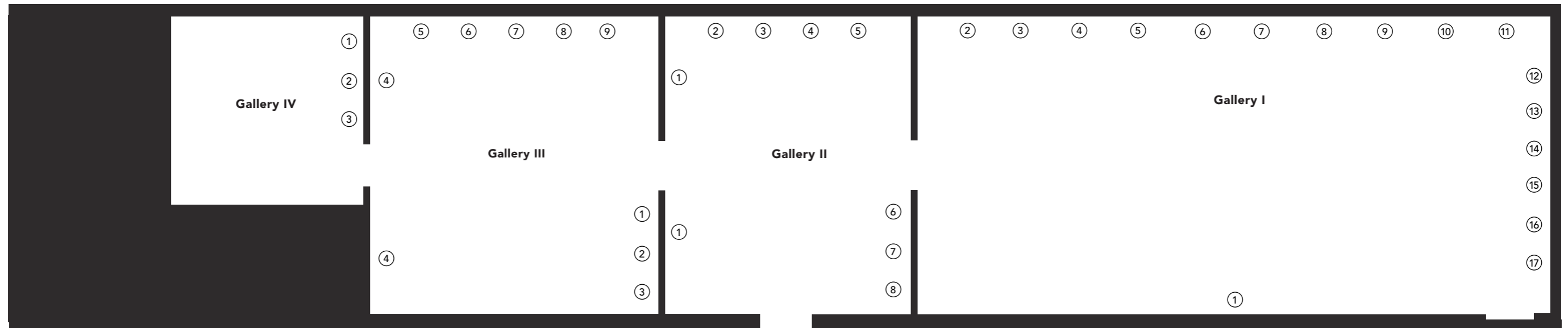
20 000 NOK

Fredrik Værsløv's new edition for Bergen Kunsthall consists of 26 unique paintings, mounted on a wooden panel. Taken together, the full series comprises a handmade model of all 26 'Sunset Paintings' produced for Værsløv's Festival Exhibition "All Around Amateur". For the edition, each canvas is stretched and inserted into a wooden panel, replicating the installation in Bergen Kunsthall — including the ratio of the painting to the wall, and the bespoke manner in which they are embedded into the architecture of the galleries.

The edition can be viewed in the Upstairs space, on the 2nd floor of Bergen Kunsthall.

For more information on Bergen Kunsthall's editons, including works by Gardar Eide Einarsson, Ane Hjort Guttu and Nick Mauss, visit our website www.kunsthall.no or ask at the reception.

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GALLERY I

- 1 Fredrik Vørslev, Untitled (Sunset 1), 2016
Spray paint, turpentine, cotton canvas, wooden stretcher. 8 paintings. Each 230 x 200 cm.
Courtesy the artist, STANDARD (OSLO), Oslo, and Andrew Kreps, New York
- 2-11 Fredrik Vørslev, Untitled (Sunset 2 -11), 2016
Spray paint, turpentine, cotton canvas, wooden stretcher. 230 x 198,5 cm. Courtesy the artist, STANDARD (OSLO), Oslo, and Andrew Kreps, New York
- 12 Allison Katz and Fredrik Vørslev
Shelf Paintings Poster 1 (Grid), 2016
Digital print, wood. 76 x 54 x 18,4 cm
Courtesy the artist
- 13 Allison Katz and Fredrik Vørslev
Shelf Paintings Poster 3 (Wheat), 2016
Digital print, wood. 76 x 54 x 18,4 cm
Courtesy the artist
- 14 Allison Katz and Fredrik Vørslev
Shelf Paintings Poster 2 (Night), 2016
Digital print, wood. 76 x 54 x 18,4 cm
Courtesy the artist
- 15 Fredrik Vørslev, Shelf Paintings Untitled, 2010
Spray paint, house paint, cellulose paint, corrosion protective spray, staples, two components varnish on pine plywood, pine shelf, stainless steel screws and hinges. 76 x 54 x 18,4 cm. Courtesy the artist

- 16 Fredrik Vørslev, Shelf Paintings Untitled, 2010
Spray paint, house paint, cellulose paint, corrosion protective spray, staples, two components varnish on pine plywood, pine shelf, stainless steel screws and hinges. 76 x 54 x 18,4 cm. Courtesy the artist
- 17 Fredrik Vørslev, Shelf Paintings Untitled, 2010
Spray paint, house paint, cellulose paint, corrosion protective spray, staples, two components varnish on pine plywood, pine shelf, stainless steel screws and hinges. 76 x 54 x 18,4 cm. Courtesy the artist

GALLERY II

- 1 Fredrik Vørslev, Untitled (Sunset 12), 2016
Spray paint, turpentine, cotton canvas, wooden stretcher. 224 x 744 cm. Courtesy the artist
- 2 Stewart Uoo and Fredrik Vørslev
Shelf Paintings Rosy Posies, 2016
Plywood, acrylic decoupage, men's bicast leather harnesses, stainless steel, screws. 76 x 54 x 18,4 cm.
Courtesy the artist
- 3 Stewart Uoo and Fredrik Vørslev
Shelf Paintings Purple Punch, 2016
Plywood, acrylic decoupage, men's bicast leather harnesses, stainless steel, screws. 76 x 54 x 18,4 cm.
Courtesy the artist.
- 4 Stewart Uoo and Fredrik Vørslev
Shelf Paintings Petal Paisley, 2016
Plywood, acrylic decoupage, men's bicast leather harnesses, stainless steel, screws. 76 x 54 x 18,4 cm.
Courtesy the artist.

- 5 Stewart Uoo and Fredrik Vørslev
Shelf Paintings Paisley Meets Plaid, 2016
Plywood, acrylic decoupage, men's bicast leather harnesses, stainless steel, screws. 76 x 54 x 18,4 cm.
Courtesy the artist.
- 6 Allison Katz and Fredrik Vørslev
Shelf Paintings 3 (Traffic, 2014), 2016
Rice, acrylic on wood. 76 x 54 x 18,4 cm
Courtesy the artist
- 7 Allison Katz and Fredrik Vørslev
Shelf Paintings 2 (Sand Painting, 2009 - 2013), 2016
Rice, acrylic, sand on wood. 76 x 54 x 18,4 cm
Courtesy the artist

- 8 Allison Katz and Fredrik Vørslev
Shelf Paintings 1 (Black Pears, 2009), 2016
Rice, acrylic on wood. 76 x 54 x 18,4 cm
Courtesy the artist

GALLERY III

- 1 Matias Faldbakken and Fredrik Vørslev
Shelf Paintings (Printing Money) #01, 2012
Mixed media sculpture: plast foil, photo copy on 250g Daler-Rowney paper and staples on pine plywood, pine shelf, stainless steel screws and hinges. 76 x 54 x 18,4 cm. Courtesy of the artist and STANDARD (OSLO), Oslo

- 2 Matias Faldbakken and Fredrik Vørslev
Shelf Paintings (Printing Money) #02, 2012
Mixed media sculpture: plast foil, photo copy on 250g Daler-Rowney paper and staples on pine plywood, pine shelf, stainless steel screws and hinges. 76 x 54 x 18,4 cm. Courtesy of the artist and STANDARD (OSLO), Oslo
- 3 Matias Faldbakken and Fredrik Vørslev
Shelf Paintings (Printing Money) #03, 2012
Mixed media sculpture: plast foil, photo copy on 250g Daler-Rowney paper and staples on pine plywood, pine shelf, stainless steel screws and hinges. 76 x 54 x 18,4 cm. Unique. Courtesy of the artist and STANDARD (OSLO), Oslo

- 4 Fredrik Vørslev, Untitled (Sunset 13), 2016
Spray paint, turpentine, cotton canvas, wooden stretcher. 224 x 744 cm. Courtesy the artist

- 5 Josh Smith and Fredrik Vørslev
Shelf Paintings (Untitled I), 2016
Plywood, oil paint. 76 X 54 X 18,4 cm
Courtesy the artist

- 6 Josh Smith and Fredrik Vørslev
Shelf Paintings (Untitled II), 2016
Plywood, oil paint. 76 X 54 X 18,4 cm.
Courtesy the artist

- 7 Josh Smith and Fredrik Vørslev
Shelf Paintings (Untitled III), 2016
Plywood, oil paint. 76 X 54 X 18,4 cm.
Courtesy the artist

- 8 Josh Smith and Fredrik Vørslev
Shelf Paintings (Untitled IV), 2016
Plywood, oil paint. 76 X 54 X 18,4 cm.
Courtesy the artist
- 9 Josh Smith and Fredrik Vørslev
Shelf Paintings (Untitled V), 2016
Plywood, oil paint. 76 x 54 x 18,4 cm.
Courtesy the artist

GALLERY IV

- 1 Josh Smith and Fredrik Vørslev
Shelf Paintings (Untitled VI), 2016
Plywood, oil paint. 76 x 54 x 18,4 cm.
Courtesy the artist

- 2 Josh Smith and Fredrik Vørslev
Shelf Paintings (Untitled VII), 2016
Plywood, oil paint. 76 x 54 x 18,4 cm.
Courtesy the artist

- 3 Josh Smith and Fredrik Vørslev
Shelf Paintings (Untitled VIII), 2016
Plywood, oil paint. 76 X 54 X 18,4 cm.
Courtesy the artist

BILLBOARD

- B Fredrik Vørslev, Untitled (Bergen Kunsthall), 2016
Spray paint, acrylic paint and turpentine on cotton canvas, wooden stretcher. 215,4 x 312 cm