PUBLICATION

Mari Slaattelid Templates Texts: Mari Slaattelid, Steinar Sekkingstad, Aleksi Mannila-Wildhagen Editors: Steinar Sekkingstad, Axel Wieder Design: Sara De Bondt Published by Bergen Kunsthall, Kunstnernes Hus and Sternberg Press, 2019

The Festival Exhibition is presented this year in collaboration with Kunstnernes Hus in Oslo, where a new version of the exhibition will be shown in 2020. The two exhibitions have been planned as successive chapters with a focus on different aspects of Slaattelid's most recent paintings. A new book is published in collaboration between Bergen Kunsthall and Kunstnernes Hus, including paintings from both exhibitions.

EDITION

Mari Slaattelid Edition, Kystverket 2019 Acrylic on paper 41,7 x 29,5 cm Edition of 10, unique

Mari Slaattelid's edition for Bergen Kunsthall consists of 10 unique paintings on paper, made as variations over the main visual motif in the exhibition "Kystverket". A male figure – seen in the paintings within the exhibition, where he is positioned in a mast high above the ground – is in these versions depicted in a much closer view, seen from behind, and without the mast's visible connection to the ground. Painted with rapid, expressive brush strokes, the works share a common colour palette of black, green, and yellow tones, but are nevertheless distinctly articulated, giving each of the 10 paintings its own unique character.

Bergen Kunsthall's edition series offers artworks from Norwegian and international contemporary artists. All the works have been made especially for Bergen Kunsthall and all profits from the sales go to support Bergen Kunsthall's programme and future projects.

Curated by

Axel Wieder (Director) & Steinar Sekkingstad (Curator)

Staff

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Vegard Vindenes (Tech), Eric Alvin Wangel (Tech), Maja Zahl (Finance and Administration), Mia Øquist (Members), Tord Øyen (Reception), Stein-Inge Århus (Communication)

Design Blank Blank The Festival Exhibition Mari Slaattelid *Kystverket* 23.5.–11.8. 2019

The Bergen International Festival Exhibition is considered the most prestigious exhibition commission for a Norwegian artist in his or her home country. The Festival Exhibition has been shown at Bergen Kunsthall since 1953, selected and organised by Bergen Kunsthall.

This year's Festival Artist, Mari Slaattelid, is one of Norway's most recognised painters. For almost three decades Slaattelid has insisted on the potential of painting, independently of changing trends and the shifting status of painting within artistic discourses. Without locking the medium into any particular formal idiom, she alternates with ease between figuration and abstraction, between expressive and conceptual painting, and the intersections of painting in relation to other art forms such as photography and literature.

Her exhibition "Kystverket" consists almost exclusively of new works created especially for the galleries of Bergen Kunsthall. The title reflects the main motif in many of the new paintings: a coastal landscape with a lantern (navigation marker) and – in silhouette against the sky – an operator adjusting the light signal. With clear resonance in its geographical location on the coast of southwestern Norway, the exhibition can be seen as a site-specific response to the expectations and the format of the Festival Exhibition. Throughout this extensive series of paintings, which use variations of the same theme, Slaattelid explores a wide-ranging painterly vocabulary. The motif – where an object in nature becomes an

Opens Thur 23 May 13:00 Free Opened by Director Axel Wieder in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Sonja Tours Every Sunday 14:00 Every Sunday 13:00 for Families anthropomorphic signal emitter – is something she shares with colleagues from the history of art, such as August Strindberg and Peder Balke in Nordic painting. The distinctive triangular shape of the lantern, as an alien element in the landscape, in combination with the male figure placed high above ground level, is an iconic juxtaposition, transcendental and at the same time utterly prosaic.

The gaze is a recurring theme in the exhibition, appearing both in the lantern motif, where a circle is inscribed in a triangle like an "all-seeing eye", and in a series of works depicting a human eye. The eye appears here as something bodily direct, and as an image of the individual gaze: the filter through which every one of us experiences the world.

Mari Slaattelid, (b. 1960), studied at the academies of art in Bergen, Oslo and Düsseldorf. She lives and works in Oslo. Recent exhibitions include among others STANDARD (OSLO), Oslo; Astrup Fearnley Museet, Oslo; Nasjonalmuseet, Oslo; Linköping konsthall, Linköping; Henie Onstad Kunstsenter, Bærum; Stavanger Kunstmuseum; Statens Museum for Kunst, København; Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma, Helsinki; CAC, Vilnius; Malmö Kunstmuseum, Malmö; and Galleria d'Arte Moderna Bologna, Bologna.

Curated by Axel Wieder og Steinar Sekkingstad.

Plattform

Sat 25 May 14:00 Free Mari Slaattelid in conversation with Gunnar Danbolt

Plattform

Sat 10 Aug 14:00 Free Sigrun Åsebø, Lovnader om lykke: Mari Slaattelid og rekonseptualiseringen av maleriet, Lecture

