

Kunsthall Aarhus

21.04. – 19.05.2024

*Benjamin
Asger Krog Møller &
Naja Zethner*

Afgang 24

PASSAGE



Benjamin Asger Krog Møller & Naja Zethner

The different meanings of the word 'passage' question where everything ends and begins and invite us to be the artists' works in the exhibition, to be open to change and reorganization. It allows us to step in and view the art and the circumstances of its creation in the light of these processes.

This year also marks the twentieth anniversary of the collaboration between The Jutland Art Academy and Kunsthall Aarhus around the annual graduation exhibition. The graduation exhibition is giving insight into a five-year institutional education process as well as presenting the audience with some of the newest leading artists on the Danish art scene.

In short, *Passage* is a renegotiation or pun on the rite of passage. It playfully yet seriously looks at our understanding of the character of art, its production and reception. Alongside the more obvious connections, *Passage* also refers to a present time of great local and global upheaval. A time of transition, which the artists examine on both a personal and collective level in alternating connections between time, space, language, matter, fiction, and reality. In the adjoining catalog two of the artists' texts are included in parallel with the exhibition. Through these text passages we gain insight into how text practice forms a connection between the two artistic practices, who in different ways, work with writing and language in their making of fictions, form and imagery.

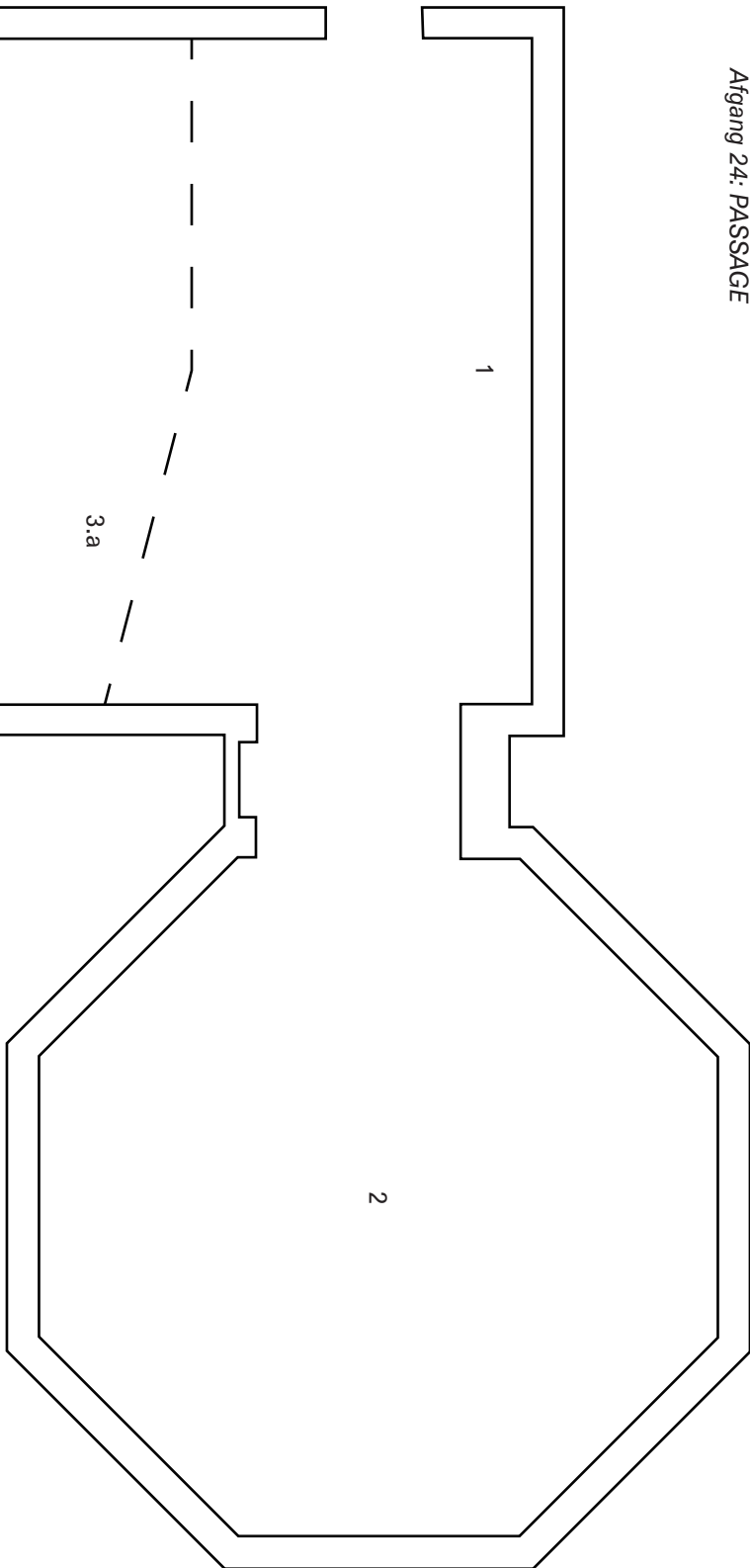
Benjamin Asger Krog Møller & Naja Zethner

Passage is the title of this year's graduation exhibition and presents works by the two artists and graduates from The Jutland Art Academy, Benjamin Asger Krog Møller and Naja Zethner.

In its immediacy, the title contains the notion that the graduation exhibition is inherently seen as a transition - a form of passages where the artists go from art students to graduate artists. However, the exhibition dwells on this passage and reflects on the art and the making of art as a continuous action or process of passing from one place, state or stage to another. The passage may be seen as a continually interacting gap. It is both a material and immaterial link, where an exploration of other temporalities and spatialities can emerge in new compositions.

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Benjamin Asger Krog Møller & Naja Zethner



Afgang 24: PASSAGE

1. Benjamin Asger Krog Møller og Naja Zethner, *Dansen*, 2024 (Laserprint på A4 i 2000 editioner)

2. Naja Zethner, *NZ*, 2024

3. Benjamin Asger Krog Møller, *De lånte fjer*, 2024

3.a. Mor & søn, *Udsnit af en virkelighed*, 2023-2024

3.b. Skolekunst & Kunstskeoler (red.), *Case nr. 23: Personalebløt*, 2024

3.c. Institut for Emancipationsvidenskab, *Professor Sturks Malerier*, 1974-2024

1. Benjamin Asger Krog Møller and Naja Zethner, *The Dance*, 2024 (Laserprint on A4, edition of 200)

2. Naja Zethner, *NZ*, 2024

3. Benjamin Asger Krog Møller, *De lånte fjer*, (Feathers borrowed), 2024

3.a. Mother & son, *Udsnit af en virkelighed* (Snippets of a reality), 2023-2024

3.b. School art & Art schools (ed.), *Case nr. 23: Personalebløt* (Reconstruction no. 23: The staff toilet), 2024

3.c. The Institute of Emancipatory Science, *Professor Sturks Malerier* (The Paintings of Professor Sturk), 1974-2024

Benjamin Asger Krog Møller & Naja Zethner

De forskellige grundbetydninger knyttet til ordet 'passage' sætter spørgsmålstegn ved, hvor alting ender og begynder, og inviterer os til at være åbne over for ændringer og reorganisering. I lyset af disse processer kan vi træde ind i et rum, hvor vi kan anskue kunsten og omstændighederne omkring dens skabelse på ny.

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Biografier

Naja Zethner

Billedkunstner Naja Zethner arbejder med maleri og tekst, hvormed hun undersøger sanserindtryk, partiturer, strukturer og billeddannelse. På bløde bomuldslærreder og sidler, hvor sproget bevæger og ændrer udtryk, køes en stærkt formlinteresseret ambivalens i de gennemskinnelige strøg og ordenes Krops-poetiske undersøgelser af æstetiske fænomener. Som i malerens overdræne mikroskopi udforskes billedet tilsvarende som et vedvarende levende system, der afspejler hendes engageret nutidig økologi, koreografi, billedteori og kultur.

Benjamin Asger Krog Møller

Benjamin Asger Krog Møller er en billedkunstner og idénforfatter, der beskæftiger sig med installation, tekst og kollaborativt arbejde. I en kunstnerisk art skærtren kombinatorik udarbejdes en særegen intervererende form for immanent institutionsskritik og almindelige slapsitisk arkitektur, der rumstærker i al slags (billed) sprog og viden og tekst i såvel det digitale som det analoge. Benærkelsesværdige kunstneriske og idehistoriske bevægelser i internationalt men særdeles også i lokalt aarhusiansk perspektiv, udforskes i diverse former for institutionalisering, kværvidenskabteuing historieforskning og til tider kaos-apokalyptiske fiktionstremstillinger.

Hans arbejde er opbygget gennem utallige gruppeudstillinger og samarbejder, herunder det opsegende bogprojekt *Skolekunst & Kunstskeoler* (2019 - Selma Rom Andersen, Lina Brogaard Ottosen, Maj Færgemann), *Institut for Emancipationsvidenskab* (2017-) samt kunstnergruppen og anagrammet *Computer/Lars* (2022 - medvirke af den aldede franske forfatter Marcel Proust), der bølge udarbejdes med filosof Asker Bryld Staunæs såvel som *Organ for de autorome videnskaber* (2020 - Asker Bryld Staunæs, Tobias Dias), et ekstra-disciplinært kollektiv for research, kunst og infrastrukturel organisation.

Biographies

Naja Zethner

Visual artist Naja Zethner works with painting and text, with which she investigates sensory impressions, scores, structure formation and imagings. On soft cotton canvases and pages where language moves and breathes, a strongly formalist ambivalence is expressed in the translucent strokes and the words' body-poetic investigations of aesthetic phenomena. As in a painter's exaggerated microscopy, the image is examined as a persistent living system, reflecting her engagement with contemporary ecology, choreography, image theory and culture.

Benjamin Asger Krog Møller is a visual artist and historian of ideas working with installation, text and collaborative work. In an artistic approach to external combinatorics, a distinctive intervening form of immanent institutional critique and all-encompassing slapsitick archival aesthetics is created, which rummages in all forms of (visual) language, knowledge and text in both the digital and the analogue.

Remarkable artistic and idea-historical movements in an international perspective, are examined in various forms of institutionalization, interdisciplinary history falsification and sometimes chaos apocalyptic makings of fiction. His work is made through countless group subjects and collaborations, including the investigative book project *School art & Art schools* (2019 - Selma Rom Andersen, Lina Brogaard Ottosen, Maj Færgemann), *The Institute of Emancipatory Science* (2017-) and the artist group and anagram *Computer/Lars* (2022 - collaboration with the late French writer Marcel Proust), both of which are made with philosopher Asker Bryld Staunæs as well as *Organ of The Autoromous Sciences* (2020 - Asker Bryld Staunæs, Tobias Dias), an extra-disciplinary collective for research, art and infrastructural organization.

Afgang 24: PASSAGE

Med titlen *Passage* præsenterer dette års afgangsudstilling værker af de to kunstnere Benjamin Asger Krog Møller og Naja Zethner, der begge dimittierer fra Det Jyske Kunsthøgskole.

Titlen henviser i sin umiddelbarhed til forestillingen om afgangsudstillingen som en overgang – en form for passage, hvor kunstnere bevæger sig fra kunststudierende til færdiguddannede kunstnere. Udstillingen dvæler dog yderligere ved denne passage og reflekterer over kunsten og det at skabe kunst som en proces eller kontinuerlig bevægelse mellem en tilstand eller et stadie til et andet. Passagen kan således opfattes som et konstant interagerende mellemrum. Et både materielt og immaterielt bindeled, hvor en udforskning af andre tidsligheder og rumligheder kan træde frem i nye sammensætninger.

Passage er i al sin enkelthed en slags genforhandling, af eller spil med ord over, overgangsruten. På en legende, men seriøs måde arbejdes med vores forståelse af kunstens karakter, dens produktion og modtagelse. Samtidig med de mere nærliggende forståelser referer *Passage* også til nutidens store lokale og globale omvæltninger. En overgangstid, som kunstnerne undersøger både på det personlige og kollektive plan i skiftende forbindelser mellem tid, rum, sprog, materier, fiktion og virkelighed. I det tilhørende udstillingskatalog indgår to af kunstneres tekster parallelt. Igennem disse tekstpassager får vi indblik i hvordan tekstpraksis dannes bro mellem de to kunstneriske praksisser, der på hver sin vis beskæftiger sig med skrift og sprog i deres fiktionstremstillinger, form og billeddannelse.

Kunsthall Aarhus 21.04.19.05.2024

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Karen Vestergaard Andersen
Grafisk design
Dokho Shin

Serligt tak Special thanks
Der Jyske Kunsthøgskole

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Torsdag kl. 11-20
Mandag Lukket
Opening Hours
Tuesday – Sunday 11:00 – 18:00
Thursday 11:00 – 20:00
Monday Closed

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Benjamin Asger Krog Møller & Naja Zethner

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Karen Vestergaard Andersen

Karen Vestergaard Andersen is a Danish art historian and independent curator engaged in intersectional feminist practices, somaeesthetics and new materialist knowledge and exhibition production within the field of contemporary art.

Co-founder of *blæstøcks* (bs), a collaborative platform and partnership with curator Helen Nishijo. (bs) forms a knowledge and practice based community with contemporary art centered around critical ecofeminism, solidarity practices, spiritualism and civil rights activism in a transcultural perspective. In addition, she is co-founder of the collective project SOMATIK and former co-director of ARIEL – Feminisms in The Aesthetics.