

11.10.2024 – 19.1.2025

SUPERFLEX & ASGER JORN

SUPERCONVERSATION



SUPERFLEX press photo: Daniel Stjerne

In a new major exhibition with the Danish artist collective SUPERFLEX, the artists Asger Jorn, Jørn Utzon, Sonja Ferlov Mancoba, Per Kirkeby among others are brought to life. With the help of artificial intelligence, they are invited into the expanded collective for a conversation about the museum's functions, its future, transformation and change of perspective.

Asger Jorn: We've been discussing the integration of living elements into museums, but what if we take this a step further? What if the very structure of the museum itself was designed to decay or transform over time?

SUPERFLEX: Intriguing. A museum with its own lifecycle, mirroring the natural world it incorporates. We've explored similar ideas in our installations.

Sonja Ferlov Mancoba: This could be a powerful statement about the nature of art and time. But we must consider how it affects the artworks within.

Troels Andersen: How do we ensure this doesn't become an exercise in wasteful consumption?

(Quotes from the A.I. work SUPERCONVERSATION, 2024, which can be experienced in the exhibition)

In autumn 2024, the Danish artist collective SUPERFLEX will participate in the conversation about the future of art museums. In line with Asger Jorn and the architect Jørn Utzon's visions for a new art museum in Silkeborg in 1965, which was to break down the boundaries between viewer and artwork, SUPERFLEX presents an original exhibition in collaboration with Museum Jorn about the museum's functions, its future, transformation and change of perspective.

Since 1993, SUPERFLEX has worked as an expanded collective and has consistently worked with a wide variety of collaborators. Recent works have taken the idea of collaboration further, soliciting the participation of other species.

Jean Dubuffet said about Asger Jorn, "Tumult was his element; in tumult, he felt like a fish in water." In that spirit, Jorn himself proposed creating "Ministry of Disruption" ("Ministeriet for Forstyrrelser"). Similarly, SUPERFLEX often talks about cultivating friction because "friction is necessary for collectivity".

The exhibition examines what a museum is, and the contrasting relationship between Museum Jorn's background, which is largely based on Jorn's spontaneity, and on the museum format, which is governed by cataloguing, conservation and management tasks. This contradictory relationship is processed in perspective-rich dialogues between works by SUPERFLEX and the museum's own works and spaces, as well as between the physical artwork and completely new digital technology. The exhibition must show the museum as an organism in constant development. Where art is not only exhibited, but where it is created, lives and expands our idea of what an art museum does and what it can develop into.

SUPERCONVERSATION and SUPERBRICK FACTORY

In the exhibition, the audience will experience the work SUPERCONVERSATION. A conversation between Asger Jorn (1914-1973), Jørn Utzon (1918-2008), Sonja Ferlov Mancoba (1911-1984), Per Kirkeby (1938-2018), Guy Debord (1931-1994), Jaqueline De Jong (1939- 2024), Le Corbusier (1887-1965), Troels Andersen (1940-2021), Pablo Picasso (1881-1973) and SUPERFLEX are created using artificial intelligence. Based on the artists' respective thinking and artistic positions, they are now discussing the art museum of the future.

"By including Jorn and others in the expanded collective, SUPERFLEX facilitates a conversation between artists across time—a debate about how to prepare for an uncertain future.

The work springs from an interest in hearing what these artists would have to say today. How would they think of their practices in relationship to the present? Many of their concerns are still timely, such as Jorn's interest in creating a "ministry of disruption," Mancoba's work with ephemeral materials, and Debord's critique of media culture."

- **SUPERFLEX**

The exhibition presents a working factory established directly at the museum, where "superbricks" are manufactured. Superbricks, developed by SUPERFLEX, are pink, curved bricks made from unfired clay, created to avoid the straight lines and right angles that characterize conventional human

architecture. With their organic materials and geometry, Superbricks mimic natural habitats and accommodate animals and plants.

As the exhibition progresses, sculptures of Superbricks are built in the museum – both inside and outside. The sculptures initiate visionary ideas for design, choice of materials and architecture based on thoughts about ecological environments, sustainability and the coexistence and well-being of plant and animal species in a man-made framework.

"It is our conviction that SUPERFLEX can contribute with unique and relevant artistic perspectives to the development of a new museum format. The accumulated artistic knowledge can create concrete proposals for how the museum's work can take shape in the future. In other words, which building blocks – both materials, immaterial and relational – can a new museum be built with.

In SUPERFLEX & ASGER JORN - SUPERCONVERSATION, SUPERFLEX animates the conversation about a new Museum Jorn with an artistic nerve that relates to current societal issues and challenges. The exhibition thus presents a new line in the museum's exhibition, communication and project programme, in which the museum is made a platform for inspiring and sensational projects that give us perspectives and experience that we can build on."

- **Christian Kortegaard Madsen, director Museum Jorn**

About the exhibition

The exhibition SUPERFLEX & ASGER JORN - SUPERCONVERSATION can be experienced at Museum Jorn in the period 11 October 2024 to 19 January 2025.

The exhibition is a radical partnership between SUPERFLEX and Museum Jorn, resulting in far-reaching installations, innovative work presentations and a working factory established at the museum.

We invite everyone to the exhibition opening at Museum Jorn on Thursday 10 October 2024 at 16, where SUPERFLEX will be present.

The exhibition is generously supported by the New Carlsberg Foundation, the Aage and Johanne Louis-Hansen Foundation and the Beckett Foundation.

Image material

Image material can be used with right credit and can be downloaded via [this link](#). Installation images from the exhibition can be sent after the exhibition opens.

Contact

For more information and interview contact:

Director Christian Kortegaard Madsen, ckm@museumjorn.dk, 40 95 07 59

Museum inspector and curator Cecilie Marie Dalhoff, cmd@museumjorn.dk, 26 21 94 26

For further press material contact:

Communications officer Sebastian Christensen, sc@museumjorn.dk, 29 33 30 90

About SUPERFLEX

SUPERFLEX was founded in 1993 by Jakob Fenger, Bjørnstjerne Christiansen and Rasmus Rosengren Nielsen. Conceived as an expanded collective, SUPERFLEX has consistently worked with a wide variety of collaborators, from gardeners to engineers to audience members. Engaging with alternative models for the creation of social and economic organisation, works have taken the form of energy systems, beverages, sculptures, copies, hypnosis sessions, infrastructure, paintings, plant nurseries, contracts, and public spaces.

Working in and outside the physical location of the exhibition space, SUPERFLEX has been engaged in major public space projects since their award-winning Superkilen opened in 2011. These projects often involve participation, involving the input of local communities, specialists, and children. Taking the idea of collaboration even further, recent works have involved soliciting the participation of other species. SUPERFLEX has been developing a new kind of urbanism that includes the perspectives of plants and animals, aiming to move society towards interspecies living. For SUPERFLEX, the best idea might come from a fish.