

KANT

ST. KONGENSGADE 3, 1264 COPENHAGEN



THE TERRITORIAL TRAP

ASMUND HAVSTEEN-MIKKELSEN

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The Territorial Trap

I serien af nye malerier til udstillingen "The Territorial Trap" afsøger Asmund Havsteen-Mikkelsen (f. 1977) grænserne for rum og territorium. En proces, der i høj grad skal ses i lyset af det seneste års tids turbulente migrationer i Europa, hvor spørgsmålet om den territoriale suverænitet er vendt tilbage i den offentlige diskurs. På malerierne er der dog ingen flygtninge, der krydser landegrænser eller kravler over pigtrådshegn, men en række arkitektoniske motiver, hvor horisonten viser sig som noget uklart eller faretruende.

Udstillingens største værk: "Tectonic Dreams Against the Great Outdoors" præsenterer beskueren for et modernistisk rum, hvor Havsteen-Mikkelsen i kraft af en kryds-komposition skaber en dynamisk bevægelse imod et udenfor, hvor en mærkelig tågelignende natur formation synes at ville invadere det private. Rummet er i opløsning, på vej til at omdanne sig selv til noget andet, men hvad?

Et farvemæssigt mere stilfærdigt værk, "No Nation is an Island" har ligeledes et klart udsyn fra en moderne bygning til en horisontlinje af blå hav. Er det udsynet fra en villa på en græsk ø mod flygtninge i gummibåd? Hvor er vi henne? Denne svæven i uvished, antydninger og spil på titler overfor gådefulde rum, er et karakteristisk træk ved de nye malerier.

Udover oliemalerierne præsenteres også en edition bestående af spray-prints: "Burning Modernity". Her er brugt stencil og spraymaling til at skabe et brændende ildhav omkring Le Corbusier's ikoniske Villa Savoye.

Titlen på udstillingen og dens tematik er fra en artikel af samme navn skrevet af politologen John Agnew i 1994, hvori han advokerer for en mere global forståelse for nationalstaternes indbyrdes afhængighed. Territoriets fælde opstår, når nationen, og dermed det kollektive rum, lukker sig om sig selv. Udstillingens malerier kan derfor opfattes som meditationer, der tilsammen danner et tankerum, hvorudfra beskueren kan indlede sin egen refleksion over grænserne for rum, arkitektur og menneskeligt liv. Hvor i territoriet befinder vi os selv? Hvilke grænser har vi sat for vores eget liv?

"The Territorial Trap" er Asmund Havsteen-Mikkelsens anden soloudstilling i Galleri KANT. Han har siden sommeren 2015 været bosiddende i København efter 8 år i Berlin. Ud over talrige solo- og gruppeudstillinger i ind- og udland, har han udført en række udsmykninger for bl.a. Ny Carlsberg Fondet, Jazzhus Montmartre, og Nyborg Gymnasium. Hans værker er erhvervet af bl.a. Statens Kunstfond, Novo Nordisk Foundation og Kastrupgaardssamlingen. For tiden deltager han i gruppeudstillingen "Idealer – Konkret Kunst Dengang og Nu", der vises på Fuglsang Museum og som siden skal vandre til Esbjerg & Randers Kunstmuseum i 2017. I 2018 vil Viborg Kunsthall præsentere en større separatudstilling med Asmund Havsteen-Mikkelsen.

The Territorial Trap

In the series of new paintings for the exhibition "The Territorial Trap" Asmund Havsteen-Mikkelsen (b. 1977) explores the limits of space and territory. A process that largely reflects the turbulent migrations during the past year in Europe, where the issue of territorial sovereignty has returned to public discourse. However, in the paintings, there are no refugees crossing borders or climbing over the barbed wire fences, but a number of architectural motives, where the horizon appears as something uncertain and looming.

The largest work: "Tectonic Dreams Against the Great Outdoors" presents a modernist space for the viewer, where Havsteen-Mikkelsen with a cross-composition creates a dynamic movement towards the outside, where a strange mist-like formation of nature seems to invade the private. The room is dissolving, on its way to transform itself into something else, but what?

A more quiet work, in terms of colour, "No Nation is an Island" also has a clear view from a modern building to a horizon line of blue sea. Is it the view from a villa on a Greek island

towards refugees in a rubber boat? Where are we? This state of uncertainty, hints and pun-like titles to the enigmatic spaces, are characteristic features of the new paintings.

In addition to the oil paintings an edition of spray-prints : "Burning Modernity" will also be presented. In these works Havsteen-Mikkelsen has used stencil and spray paint to create a sea of fire burning around Le Corbusier's iconic Villa Savoye.

The title of the exhibition and its theme is inspired by an article with the same title written by the political scientist John Agnew in 1994, in which he advocates for a more global understanding of interdependence between nation-states. A territorial trap occurs when a nation, and thus the collective space, closes in on itself. The paintings in the exhibition can be seen as meditations, which together form a space for thoughts, from where the viewer can initiate a personal reflection on the limits of space, architecture and human life. Where in the territory are we? What limits have we set for our own lives?

"The Territorial Trap" is Asmund Havsteen-Mikkelsen's second solo exhibition at KANT. Since summer 2015 he has resided in Copenhagen after 8 years in Berlin. In addition to numerous solo- and group exhibitions in Denmark and abroad, he has realised a number of commissions for among others New Carlsberg Foundation, Jazzhus Montmartre and Nyborg Gymnasium. His works are acquired by The Danish Arts Foundation, the Novo Nordisk Foundation and Kastrupgaard Collection. Currently, he participates in the group exhibition "Ideals - Concrete Art Then and Now" shown at Fuglsang Museum and later, in 2017, at Esbjerg Art Museum and Randers Art Museum. In 2018, Viborg Kunsthall is going to present a major solo exhibition by Asmund Havsteen-Mikkelsen.

Asmund Havsteen-Mikkelsen

b. 1977, Aeroe, (DK). Lives and works in Copenhagen.
Studio: Bådehavnsgade 44, DK-2450 Copenhagen S.

www.asmundhavsteen.net
info@asmundhavsteen.net
mobile + +45 30 82 02 35

Education

2003-09 MFA, Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen.
2007-08 Hochschule für Bildende Kunst, Hamburg.
2004-05 CCA Research Program, Kitakyushu, Japan.
1996-03 MA in literature and philosophy, University of Copenhagen.

Upcoming

2016 The Territorial Trap, Gallery Kant, Copenhagen (solo).
2016 IDEALS – Concrete Art Then and Now (group), Fuglsang Art Museum (travelling to Esbjerg Art Museum and Randers Art Museum in 2017).
2016 Disruption, workshop at Tallinn University, Oct.
2016 The Berlin Art Scene, lecture at Odense Central Library, 7th Nov.
2017 New Danish Art, interview by Lisbeth Bonde, Gyldendal, Copenhagen.
2018 Viborg Kunsthall (solo).

Solo exhibitions

2016 *New Buildings* (with Jesper Rasmussen), Galerie MøllerWitt, Aarhus, Denmark.
2014 *The Infinity Complex*, Gallery Kant, Copenhagen.
2013 *Approximations*, Charlottenburg Amtsgericht, Berlin.
Look at This World, Fold Gallery, London
2012 *Blue Devils*, Galerie MøllerWitt, Aarhus, Denmark.
2011 *The Future Begins at Home*, Rønnebæksholm ArtCenter, Denmark.

- 2010 *Estrangement City*, Politikens Galleri, Copenhagen.
Meditations on the Uncanny, Helene Nyborg Contemporary, Copenhagen.
- 2008 *Life in the Box*, Helene Nyborg Contemporary, Copenhagen.
- 2007 *Supernumeral* (with Emil W. Hertz), Marstal Museum, Aeroe.
- 2006 *Mentalscapes*, Helene Nyborg Contemporary, Copenhagen.
Frontal/Sideways, The Scandinavian House, Prague.
- 2004 *Melting Barricades* (with Inuk Silis Høegh), North Atlantic House, Copenhagen, and Katuaq, Nuuk, Greenland.
Collapsing Structures (with Rune Søchting and Jonas Olesen), The Projectroom, Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen.

Selected group exhibitions

- 2016 *Aeroe Dog Days - Art & Music Festival*, Aeroe, Denmark.
Either Those Curtains, Fold Gallery, London.
The Island Show, Galleri Kant, Fanø.
50x50x50, Kastrupgaard Art Museum, Copenhagen.
- 2015 *UNDER 10 OVER 1*, Galleri Kant, Copenhagen.
BASTARD – Claus Carstensens Collection, Esbjerg Art Museum.
Picture Poking Pulling, Nissen Contemporary, Copenhagen.
In Between, Galerie MøllerWitt, Aarhus.
3-1 Kunstaktion, Aros, Aarhus.
Reflexions, Auguststr. 11, Berlin
White Energy, Galleri Kant, Copenhagen.
- 2014 *Selected Works*, Galerie Møllerwitt (DK), Aarhus.
Stetige Wiederkehr des Utopischen, Trittau, Germany
- 2013 *Winter Exhibition*, Galleri Kant, Copenhagen.
- 2012 *Needle In A Cloud*, Fold Gallery, London.
Snowtime, Galleri KANT, Esbjerg, Denmark.
- 2011 *Enter II*, Kunsthallen Brandts, Odense, Denmark.
Summer Salon, Helene Nyborg Contemporary, Copenhagen.
Primitive Accumulation, Fold Gallery, London.
Uferhallen Kunstaktien, Uferhallen, Berlin.
3-1Kunstauktion, Kunsten, Aalborg.
Painterly Delight II, Ystad Konstmuseum, Sweden.
- 2010 *Geist III*, Auguststr. 17, Berlin.
No Food No Drink No Sticky Lollies, Stadtbad Wedding, Berlin.
Painterly Delight, Art Centre Silkeborg Bad, Denmark.
Greetings to Ib Geertsen, Danish Graphic Center, Copenhagen.
Radical Adults, The Forgotten Bar Project, Berlin.
CRW – Contemporary Reflections on Warfare, BKS Garage, Copenhagen.
Copenhagen City Art Collection 2006-2009, Copenhagen.
The Hello Show, Helene Nyborg Contemporary, Copenhagen.
Art in the Blood, Utzon Center, Aalborg.
A Formal Figure, Galerie im Regierungsviertel, Berlin.
- 2009 *Out of Wedding*, UferHallen, Berlin.
Formation, Halle 41, Berlin.
Exit, Gl. Strand, Copenhagen.
- 2008 *Jahresausstellung*, HfBK, Hamburg.
InnenRaum, Galerie MøllerWitt, Aarhus, Denmark.
- 2007 *Autolabor*, Brandenburgischer Kunstverein Potsdam e.V., Germany.
PT07, Vestjyllands Kunstmuseum, Tistrup, Denmark.
- 2006 *Proverbs*, Portalen, Greve, Denmark.
Re-thinking Nordic Colonialism, The Living Art Museum, Nifka, Reykjavik, Iceland.
Contemporary Art, Spring Exhibition, Charlottenborg, Copenhagen.
- 2005 *Total Production*, Islands Brygge 83, Copenhagen.
- 2004 *Typhoon*, Maeda Studio, Kitakyushu, Japan.
Minority Report, Aarhus, Denmark.
- 2003 *Young Contemporary Art*, Frederiks Bastion, Copenhagen and Inkonst, Malmø, Sweden.

Bibliography

- 2016 *Psykologiske Rum*, Information, 27th May 2016.
For Mig er Arkitekturen en Måde at Fortælle Historier På, Interview v. Lisbeth Bonde, Kunsten.nu, april. 2016.
Artistofttheweek.dk, interview, April, 2016.
- 2015 *Art and Economy*, radio-interview by Michael Müller, P1 28th Dec. 2015.
Rum Magazine (cover), Stockholm, Sweden, Oct. 2015.
Man Rejser i Linjer, interview, Regnfang, March 2015.
Demo Mod Vinter, Kunsten.nu, Feb. 2015.
- 2014 *Positive Propaganda*, interview, Aripaev newspaper, Estonia, Oct. 2014.
Imagine Architecture. Artistic Visions of the Urban Realm, p. 64-65. Gestalten, Ed. Lukas Feireiss, Aug. 2014.
Sven Nommesen: *Structure as Habitat. Asmund Havsteen-Mikkelsens View of Cities and Images*, in catalogue: *Stetige Wiederkehr des Utopischen*, Trittau, Feb. 2014.
- 2013 *Mit Berlin*, DR K, 30 min. documentary on national television, Oct. 2013.
Approximations in Grüntuch Ernst Dialoges, Distanz Verlag, Berlin, Aug. 2013.
- 2012 Malene Birkelund: *Videnskaben lagt i blød*, Fyens Stiftstidende, 19. Dec. 2012.
Arne de Boer: *Stand By for Hyperdrive*, Text for *Blue Devils* exhibition, Nov. 2012.
Asmund Havsteen-Mikkelsen, Kunsten.nu., Nov. 2012.
- 2011 *Enter II*, catalogue, Kunsthallen Brandts, Odense, 2011.
The Future Begins at Home, catalogue, Rønnebæksholm, Næstved, 2011.
Dina Feilberg: *Subtile Undersøgelser af Rum*, Kunstmagasinet Janus, Juni 2011.
Arne de Boer: *New Wounds, in Primitive Accumulation*, Catalogue, London, 2011.
- 2010 *Estrangement City*, Politiken, October 28th, 2010.
Asmund Havsteen-Mikkelsen, Information, July 24th, 2010.
Meditations on the Uncanny, catalogue, Lettre Publishing, Copenhagen, 2010.
Kunsten at føle sig hjemme, radio-interview, P1 – Vita, May, 2010.
- 2009 *Lettre International 20 Jahre Mauerfall* (visual contribution), *Berlin und Europa*, 2009.
Beyond Architecture – Imaginative buildings and fictional cities, p. 40-41.
Edited by Lucas Freireiss, Gestalten Verlag, Berlin, 2009.
- 2008 *Melting Barricades*, Sleek Magazine, Berlin, December 2008.
The Way We Live Now (visual contribution), Lettre Internationale, 2008.
Bente Scavenius: *Klinisk ruset for liv* (review), Børsen, August 2008.
- 2007 Torben Weirup: *Udflugt til Blokland*, *Danish Art 07*, Aschehoug, Copenhagen, 2007.
Jesper Rasmussen: *På Kant med Byens Dybder*, Kunstmagasinet Janus, September 2007.
The Celeste Art Prize 2007, catalogue, London, 2007.
- 2006 *Proverbs*, catalogue, Portalen, Greve, 2006.
Frontal/Sideways, catalogue, The Scandinavian House, Prague, 2006.
- 2005 May Misfeldt: *Melting Barricades*, *Danish Art 05*, Aschehoug, Copenhagen, 2006.
Intimate Absence, Patrick Huse (ed.), Delta Press, and Henie Onstad Kunstsenter, Norway, 2005.
CCA Research Program 2004-2005, catalogue, Kitakyushu, Japan, 2005.
- 2004 *Melting Barricades*, catalogue, North Atlantic House, Copenhagen, 2004.

Grants

- 2015 *The Danish Art Council.*
Grosserer F.L.Foghts Fond.
- 2014 *The Danish Art Council.*
- 2012 *The Danish Art Council.*
- 2011 *Henry Heerup Legatet.*
The Danish Art Council.
- 2010 *The Danish Art Council.*
- 2008 *Beckett Fonden*
Oticon Fonden
Ragnvald & Ida Blix' Fond
- 2004 *Augustinus Fonden*

N.A.P.A.

Commissions

- 2015 *Vestre Landsret*, Ny Carlsberg Foundation, Denmark.
2013 *Horisonter*, Middelfart Gymnasium, Denmark.
2013 *Approximations*, in *Dialoges*, Gruntuch Ernst, Distanz Verlag, Berlin.
2012 *Det Komplementære Rum*, The Science Building, Nyborg Gymnasium.
Interferens, site-specific painting at Jazzhus Montmartre, Copenhagen.
2007 *Eye-D*, Carl Jacobsens Vej, Valby.

Public Collections

- 2016 Kastrupgaard Samlingen, Denmark
2015 Novo Nordisk Art Collection, Denmark.
2014 Ny Carlsberg Fondet, Denmark.
2013 Horsens Gymnasium, Denmark.
2012 Statens Kunstfond, Denmark.
2009 Copenhagen City Council, Denmark
2008 Statens Kunstfond, Denmark

Private collections in Denmark, Germany, United Kingdom, France and South Korea.

Competitions

- 2016 Winner of public competition for design of facade of Valsemøllen, Esbjerg, Denmark.

Publications

- 2015 *Non-Philosophy and Contemporary Art*, A Mock Book, Lettre Publishing, (156 pages), Copenhagen.
Mobile Verdener, A Mock Book, Lettre Publishing, (36pages), Copenhagen.
2014 *Generic Singularity*, A Mock Book, Lettre Publishing (384pages), Copenhagen.
2013 *Propositions on Painting*, A Mock Book, Lettre Publishing, Copenhagen.
2010 *Meditations on the Uncanny*, A Mock Book, Lettre Publishing, Copenhagen.

Other Activities

- 2016 Aeroe Dog Days – Art & Music Festival (co-organising with Jacob Fuglsang).
2016 Aeroe Art School (teaching) – Painterly Space.
Non-philosophy and Louis Kahn, lecture at Leth&Gori, Copenhagen.
2015 *White Energy*, curator, groupshow at Gallery Kant, Copenhagen.
2015 *Heat*, Art-demo-performance with April Gertler, 31th of January, Berlin.
2015 *Mobile Worlds*, public art project with Globale Gymnasier, Denmark.
2013 - 2015 Organiser of *The Group Crit* – a monthly session group where Berlin based artists and writers presented work and discussed new ideas.
2009 – 2010 Founder of *Büro für UrbanPraktik* with Boris Boll-Johansen.
2007 Co-organizer (with Andreas Harbsmeier and U-Turn) of *Spaces of Desire*, *Desire for Spaces*, a seminar with Roman Ondak and Iwaylo Ditchéf, held at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen.
2006-2007 Co-organizer (with Andreas Harbsmeier and Lars Bang-Larsen) of *Ideas and Processes: Four Conversations About the Making of Contemporary Art*, held at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen. Participants: Miwon Kwon & Joe Scanlan; Claire Bishop & Phil Collins; Ina Blom & Tobias Rehberger; Diedrich Diederichsen & Judith Hopf.