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Category: Performance

After Munch



Photo:

Unni Askeland

On 29 June ArtEco Gallery presented its inaugural exhibition "After Munch". The exhibition offers a selection of artworks by Norwegian artists influenced by Munch, inspired by the Tate Modern's major exhibition of Edvard Munch's work this summer, named "The Modern Eye". The exhibition runs from 29 June until 28 July.

The pride of Norwegian art, Edvard Munch travelled and exhibited extensively through Europe with several exhibitions in Germany and Paris. Munch exhibited just once in London during his lifetime. On being told there was a buyer for one of his works, he excitedly asked who. Hearing that the buyer was Norwegian he was so disappointed that he closed the whole show down and even contacted the Norwegian Embassy to help him bring the work back home. Today the Embassy is supporting the "After Munch" show, continuing the tradition of bringing contemporary Norwegian art to London. The exhibition features the artists Unni Askeland, Markus Brendmoe and Crispin Gurholt. Next year will see the celebration of Munch's 150th birthday, named the 'Munch year' in Norway.

About the artists:

Unni Askeland was the first artist to exhibit Munchadoptions in 2004, at Blomqvist in Oslo. She will be representing the 'Munch year' in Norway in 2013 at Aasgaardstrand, probably Munch's favourite place to live and work. Her pieces hold vibrant hues and an intense fullness of colour, with deep, extended drips of paint formed across several works. Unni draws a connection between her life and her art that is hypnotic. Her combination of the figural and abstract create a selection of beautifully dark and sinister embodiments with the artists, both Unni and Munch, at their very core. Key work in this exhibit is her series "Captain. My Captain" based on her father's death, which have been shown successfully at Blaafarvevaeket a Museum outside Oslo. They are for sale for the first time at ArtEco Gallery.

Markus Brendmoe had a very successful exhibition at the Stenersenmuseumet in Oslo last October. Bursting with inspiration he made a great number of works, which makes it possible for us to show not only work from that exhibit, but some not shown before. After Munch's "The Scream" fetched 120M USD on May 2nd of this year, it is interesting to bring forth newer interpretations. One of Markus' signature pieces will be his version of "The Scream". Fittingly, Markus' "The Scream" also references the 7/7 terrorist bombings in London. In viewing each beautifully delicate yet strong piece, a personal relationship is formed between artist, artwork and viewer. There is a playfulness caught between the mixture of bright and transparent colour. Markus' paintings contain an intense mixture of darkness and explosive textures with each brushstroke adding to the presence and physicality of his process.

Crispin Gurholt's work can be seen as a swing away from the other two but his work forms an integral link that brings the exhibition together. This May Crispin is the only Norwegian representative at the Havana Biennial. Crispin's art is the art of time. Called a 'live photo', his works demonstrate an incredible mastery of detail, timing and technical skill that is rare and fascinating to observe. In his photography of installations, there is an ability to capture a moment, a collection of actions and decisions that form an atmosphere of clarity and precision. Munch's work is all about capturing a moment in time and Crispin expands on this to a whole new level of intimate beauty. Crispin's live photo "Sunday 17.45" is a work caught between fiction and reality. There is an atmosphere of tension that spills out into our space, forming a connection between artwork and viewer that is intoxicating. We are caught under Crispin's spell of time, beauty and hyper-reality.

The Gallery's founder Kristin Hjellegjerde was born in Norway. After establishing ArtEco, a well circulated art blog in N.Y., she moved to London where she decided to make the next step and open a Gallery. ArtEco Gallery hopes it will be a great place for Scandinavian and international artists alike to show their work. With Tate Modern offering the 'modern' Munch, ArtEco invite you to view the 'contemporary' Munch. The research to create the "After Munch" exhibit led to securing three wonderfully acclaimed Norwegian artists showing for the first time in London, exclusively at ArtEco Gallery.

After Munch**ArtEco Gallery, 29 June - 28 July****533 Old York Road****London SW18 1TG**www.artecogallery.com

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