



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **POPULAR ART VENUE COPENHAGEN CONTEMPORARY REOPENS IN FORMER WELDING HALL ON REFSHALEØEN – WITH A NEW DIRECTOR**

**It gives Copenhagen Contemporary (CC) great pleasure to announce that the popular art venue will reopen this summer, this time in a more permanent setting in Copenhagen's new cultural district on Refshaleøen.**

**Copenhagen Contemporary has signed a lease on the former welding hall in the complex that used to house the B&W shipyard, which means that the art venue will have a total of 7,000 m<sup>2</sup> of high-ceilinged industrial premises at its disposal.**

**CC will continue under new management. The new director is a familiar figure on the Danish art scene: Marie Nipper, previous Interim Artistic Director at Tate Liverpool.**

Fuelled by a vision of creating a new venue for contemporary art in Copenhagen dedicated to large-scale and technically demanding installation art, CC carried out an eighteen-month pilot project on Papirøen (Paper Island) in Copenhagen, beginning in June 2016. During this very brief period of time, CC succeeded in presenting an exhibition programme featuring some of the most acclaimed artists in the world. CC became the most visited art centre in Denmark and garnered great acclaim in Danish and international media. As the Papirøen area is scheduled to undergo extensive urban development in the years to come, CC has endeavoured to find and secure a new setting for the institution and to raise the funding necessary to ensure lasting operation of the art centre.

Thanks to generous donations spanning several years, made by a range of the largest foundations in Denmark – including Augustinus Fonden, Aage og Johanne Louis-Hansens Fond, Spar Nord Fonden, Knud Højgaards Fond, Beckett-Fonden, support from private foundations, Refshaleøens Ejendomsselskab A/S and generous financial support from the City of Copenhagen – we are now happy to announce that Copenhagen Contemporary will reopen on 28 June 2018.

In its new setting on Refshaleøen, CC will have no less than 7,000 m<sup>2</sup> at its disposal for exhibiting contemporary art on a monumental scale – and for a special, new focus area: presenting today's art to children in engaging ways. Refshaleøen is set to be a major new cultural district in Copenhagen, located near the Royal Opera. This is where the world-famous restaurant noma just opened its new restaurant, and where the

popular Copenhagen Street Food market will reopen this summer – as will a range of other exciting restaurants and activities.

Marie Nipper, formerly senior curator at ARoS, senior curator and interim artistic director at Tate Liverpool, became director of Copenhagen Contemporary on 1 February, replacing the former project director, Jens Erik Sørensen. Jens Erik Sørensen will continue to be affiliated with CC as senior advisor.

Speaking about CC's future exhibition programme on Refshaleøen, Marie Nipper says:

*'At Copenhagen Contemporary we will continue our strategy of presenting international large-scale installation art. We want to introduce our audiences to world-renowned artists, but also to emerging talents who are making their mark on the international art scene right now. In terms of new initiatives, I want, among other things, to explore contemporary international performance art; a field that has not received much attention from art institutions in Denmark until now. We will also dedicate 2,000 m<sup>2</sup> of floor space to setting up encounters between contemporary art and children and young adults, thereby adding a new, ambitious and innovative strategy for the presentation and dissemination of contemporary art at the new CC. We must make a mark for ourselves, in Denmark and abroad, as Scandinavia's most ambitious exhibition venue for contemporary art.'*

Lord Mayor of Copenhagen, Frank Jensen, says:

*'As Lord Mayor I am very pleased that Copenhagen is now getting a fantastic exhibition venue for contemporary art in a new setting on Refshaleøen. I look forward to seeing Copenhagen Contemporary and the City of Copenhagen work together on a new, school-based scheme to promote and enhance the active involvement of children and young people in contemporary art.'*

Erik Jacobsen, Chairman of the Board, is very pleased that the pilot project on Papirøen yielded lasting results:

*'It is very satisfactory to see that our ambitions to create a new exhibition venue for a new generation's art have been fruitful. Based on the solid and generous support of important foundations and the City of Copenhagen, we have decided to take on a long-term lease on Refshaleøen. Now we can embark on the task of securing funding for many years to come of art events in Copenhagen Contemporary's new exhibition space. This will be done in collaboration with public-sector stakeholders as well as with the many foundations who have shown such foresight by backing our pilot project and our recent struggle to realise our vision of establishing an international centre of contemporary art in the capital city of Denmark.'*

**CC will open on 28 June 2018, presenting exhibitions by:**

SUPERFLEX *One Two Three Swing!* 28.6.18 – 30.12.18

Doug Aitken *Song 1.* 28.6.18 – 30.12.18

**SEE BELOW FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT OPENING EXHIBITIONS, THE WELDING HALL, REFSHALEØEN AND CC**

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**Press photos and a CV for Marie Nipper is available at <http://cphco.org/en/presse/>**

### **CC on Refshaleøen is supported by**

Augustinus Fonden, Aage og Johanne Louis-Hansens Fond, Spar Nord Fonden, Knud Højgaards Fond, Københavns kommune, Refshaleøens Ejendomsselskab A/S, Statens Kunstfond, Beckett-Fonden, MTAB and private foundations.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

### OPENING EXHIBITIONS

The first exhibitions presented at the new Copenhagen Contemporary will feature the Danish artists' collective SUPERFLEX and US artist Doug Aitken.

*It gives us great pleasure to be able to present Danish audiences to SUPERFLEX's large-scale installation One Two Three Swing!, after it has only just been featured in the Turbine Hall at Tate Modern in London. With its collective swings, One Two Three Swing! points to the potential and energy inherent in playing and to what people can achieve collectively. We are very proud to be able to present this aesthetic and conceptual total installation in a new format created especially for CC on Refshaleøen, says Marie Nipper.*

SUPERFLEX are known across the world for their ground-breaking and socially engaged art. Last year, they were selected to create the annual commission for the vast Turbine Hall at Tate Modern in London. This great honour clearly demonstrates the high esteem in which their artistic practice is held, and the work proved a major success with visitors at Tate.

The opening programme at CC also includes a large-scale video installation by the international US superstar Doug Aitken (1968). Presented on a circular screen, the impressive video work *Song 1* leads spectators into a hypnotic filmic sequence in which famous Hollywood actors and singers interpret the classic song *I Only Have Eyes For You* set against various backdrops of present-day urban settings and communities.

### CC STUDIO

The new premises in the Welding Hall gives CC the opportunity to build an entirely new centre for art presentation, communication, dissemination – and activities.

*CC STUDIO is the overall designation used to describe the facilities and activities we want to offer children, young adults and adults here at CC. The idea behind CC STUDIO is to present art in engaging and innovative ways. Here, annually commissioned works of art that invite audience participation and physical, bodily interaction will be used as a gateway to learning, says Marie Nipper. A sense of community, of acting collectively, will be at the heart of the CC STUDIO activities. We believe that children, young adults and adults all feel a need to be together.*

This programme has attracted the support of the City of Copenhagen and other sponsors – and SUPERFLEX's installation is the first work of art presented in this setting.

## THE WELDING HALL

Located in the centre of Refshaleøen, the beautiful old Welding Hall has always been a place of production – first as the site of the now-defunct B&W shipyard, and in the last decade the Royal Danish Theatre has used the building as their set construction workshop. The building underwent extensive renovation in 2006/07, overseen by architect Dorte Mandrup. Now, the old industrial building will be repurposed yet again, transforming into an international art centre. This also makes it accessible to the general public for the first time ever. CC's lease encompasses a total of 7,000 m<sup>2</sup> of floor space for administration facilities, visitors' facilities and exhibition spaces. The first floor of the Welding Hall will open to the public in early 2019, following a process of remodelling to install the required emergency exit routes.

## REFSHALEØEN

Domiciled in the Welding Hall, Copenhagen Contemporary will be a major powerhouse within the new cultural district of Refshaleøen, which is set to be a major attraction for locals and tourists alike. At this very moment, the popular Copenhagen Street Food set-up, which attracted millions of visitors to Papirøen, is preparing to open 10,000 m<sup>2</sup> of restaurants, entrepreneurial and artisanal enterprises and lounge areas along the waterline across from Langelinie. A range of new and exciting restaurants will also open in the area this summer, giving CC plenty of new neighbours. The world-famous restaurant noma just opened their new venue, complete with its own kitchen garden, right in the curve connecting Holmen and Refshaleøen.

The area also contains a wealth of other activities, including climbing walls, flea markets, skiing facilities, theatres and music venues. Refshaleøen will become an attractive recreational destination for all Danes and for tourists from Scandinavia and the rest of the world – just five kilometres from the heart of Copenhagen.

## COPENHAGEN CONTEMPORARY IN BRIEF

- Copenhagen Contemporary was set up as a self-governing institution in 2015 by the project's two originators, Jens Faurshou and Jens Erik Sørensen. They were propelled by a vision of creating a new, large-scale exhibition venue in Copenhagen dedicated to the largest and most technically demanding works of contemporary installation art – a place to match such internationally acclaimed venues as Palais de Tokyo in Paris, Tate Modern in London, HangarBiccoca in Milano, BALTIC in Newcastle and MoMA PS1 in New York.
- Thanks to eager and generous support from Danish foundations and private sponsors, CC's pilot project presented exhibitions featuring some of the most acclaimed contemporary artists working in the world today. They included Scandinavia's first solo retrospective of Bruce Nauman's work, Yoko Ono's *Wish Tree Garden*, video installations by Ragnar Kjartansson, Pierre Huyghe and Bill Viola, guitar-playing finches courtesy of Celeste Boursier-Mougenot, a time-based installation by Sarah Sze, Christian Marclay's much-admired masterpiece *The Clock*, and just last summer Anselm Kiefer took over CC with a huge installation of lead airplanes and gargantuan murals – all created especially for CC in Copenhagen.
- The pilot project clearly demonstrated that there was large and enthusiastic audience for a centre for contemporary art in the Danish capital. Copenhagen Contemporary's international profile, immersive installation art and extensive inter-institutional collaboration has a wide – and young – demographic.
- In 2017, CC was awarded the title as 'Best Art Experience in Town' by leading Danish media, and after just one year the institution was Denmark's most visited exhibition-based venue. Not least among young people: a visitor survey shows that 43% of all visitors to CC were between the ages of 20 and 29.
- CC's pilot project on Papirøen came to an end in late 2017 as the site will be developed to accommodate homes and a public swimming bath.
- CC's pilot project on Papirøen was supported by:  
A. P. Møller og Hustru Mc-Kinney Møllers Fond til almene Formaal, Augustinus Fonden, Aage og Johanne Louis-Hansens Fond, Beckett-Fonden, Det Obelske Familiefond, Købmand Herman Sallings Fond, Ole Kirk's Fond, Realdania, 15. Juni Fonden, Statens Kunstfond, Axel Muusfeldts Fond, Knud Højgaards Fond, Konsul George Jorck og hustru Emma Jorck's Fond, CAC Fonden, Ernst B. Sund, Fonden, Faurshou A/S, Kvadrat A/S, Tæppeland, Normann Copenhagen, an anonymous foundation and private donations.