



Copenhagen
Contemporary

20.02.2020
PRESS RELEASE

The art center Copenhagen Contemporary (CC) proudly announces some of the exhibitions visitors can look forward to in 2020: Danish and international stars introduce dialogues on power relations, self presentation, politics, and popular culture when CC continues its focus on performance-based commissions and interactive installation art.

The acclaimed British artist David Shrigley fills CC's largest hall with a brand-new site-specific installation looking at society and its absurdities with his invariably subtle humorous observations. Furthermore, CC will continue its focus on performance art with two extensive commissioned exhibitions, both of which take their point of departure in the meeting between artist and audience. *LOOK AT ME*, the first great solo presentation of the Danish artist Christian Falsnaes, examines power abuse and power relations between people while Esben Weile Kjær addresses the concept of freedom by demonstrating and expanding ideas about its nature in the large-scale installation *HARDCORE FREEDOM*, which comes alive through performers for the duration of the exhibition. On the first floor, the learning initiative CC Studio opens a large exhibition created by the Venezuelan Sol Calero, known for her colourful and interactive scenographic installations.

Large-scale installations, challenging instructions, live performances, and scenographic landscapes of colour are just some of the things visitors can look forward to exploring.

25.06. – 30.12.2020

David Shrigley

David Shrigley, the renowned British artist and recent recipient of the Officer of the Order of the British Empire for his artistic work, creates a brand-new installation specifically for CC's Hall 1.

David Shrigley works in various media including drawing, painting, sculpture, animation, and utility product design, all of which revolve around the themes of everyday life and human behaviour. Observations of everyday trivialities or social absurdities run like a golden thread through his work, which is at once political, poetic, and infused with a healthy dose of subtle British humour. In 2019, he attracted much attention when he displayed a thirteen-metre-tall inflatable swan in the lake at Egeskov Castle for Heartland Festival, and he will be creating an installation at CC that will be his largest to date. Shrigley has shown worldwide and was nominated for the prestigious Turner Prize in 2013 for his exhibition *Brain Activity* at the Hayward Gallery in London. During the period 2016–18, amid the Brexit fury, Shrigley showed a seven-metre-tall sculpture of a raised thumb entitled *Really Good*, giving the thumbs-up to the world from its spot at Trafalgar Square in London.

26.08.2020 – 21.02.2021

Christian Falsnaes

In an installation designed as an art fair, a video work shows Christian Falsnaes as instructor, stage-managing a chain of situations with hired performers, an audience, and passers-by in front of the camera. The work was recorded in six different locations (in a street, in a home, a church, a studio, an exhibition, and at a party), examining the issues and consequences relative to using other people as artistic material. *LOOK AT ME* is built around a series of radical performance works addressing the stage-managing of images and power relations emerging between creator and viewer.

Early in his career, Falsnaes attracted great international attention by being nominated for the Future Generation Art Prize in 2017, paving the way for showing in Kiev and at the Venice Biennale that same year. In addition, he has exhibited in prominent locations all over the world, including the Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma, Helsinki, the Centre Pompidou, Paris, the Centrale for Contemporary Art, Brussels, and the Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin.

10.10.2020 – 30.05.2021

Sol Calero

Using paintings as a background, the Venezuelan artist Sol Calero creates complex site-specific installations composed of sculptures, textiles, and found objects. Like stage sets, her works often tend to envelop visitors, who can step into the scenography and play a part in disclosing the narrative of the work. By using clichés rooted in her Venezuelan cultural heritage, Calero ponders the ambiguity of cultural symbols and how their meaning may change over time. Using this as leverage, the artist examines stereotypes and cultural misunderstandings embedded in art, addressing these inequalities by directing focus at the underrepresentation and exoticism of Latin American artists.

Calero is known for making her installations meeting places, creating spaces for exchange and dialogue. She has shown a bus open to passengers at Tate Liverpool, had a shopping center at the Hamburger Bahnhof in Berlin, opened a Venezuelan currency exchange shop at the Art Basel, invited hairdressers and nail specialists to come and style exhibition visitors, and held communal eating events, concerts, and salsa classes in her works.

22.10. – 30.12.2020

Esben Weile Kjær

In a cross-breed between an art institution and a night club, Esben Weile Kjær's exhibition *HARDCORE FREEDOM* discusses, demonstrates, and expands ideas of freedom. The installation is changeable and regularly brought to life by performances, sweeping back and forth between rebellion and party, inviting exhibition visitors to get involved via contrasting dance styles, theatre, intimate interactions, light, and sound. Like a hybrid space, *HARDCORE FREEDOM* unravels and challenges the narratives and visual agency of popular art together with the contemporary fascination with performing and selling freedom. The exhibition is presented in a special partnership with the art association Kunstforeningen GL STRAND, which, in the fall of 2020, will be showing *POWER PLAY*, also by Weile Kjær.

Already while studying at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, whence he will be graduating in 2022, Weile Kjær has attracted attention as a major talent of performance art in Denmark with performances at e.g. Den Frie Centre of Contemporary Art, the National Gallery of Denmark, the Overgaden Institute of Contemporary Art, and Kunstforeningen GL STRAND, as well as abroad including the Paris Internationale and the Nordic Contemporary, Paris, and the Karlin Studios, Prague.

We look forward to sharing more exhibitions, initiatives, events and collaborations in 2020!

CC is supported by:

Augustinus Fonden, Aage og Johanne Louis-Hansens Fond, Anonymous Fund, Private donation, Spar Nord Fonden, Knud Højgaards Fond, Salling Fondene, Beckett-Fonden, Den Danske Forskningsfond, Ole Kirk's Fond, The City of Copenhagen, Ministry of Culture, Danish Arts Foundation, Elsass Fonden, Refshaleøens Ejendomsselskab A/S, Fredericia Furniture, Ege, Ferm Living and Viking.