



PRESS INVITATION

14.08.2020

**CHRISTIAN FALSNAES**

*LOOK AT ME*

26.08.20 – 21.02.21

## No work without an audience

***LOOK AT ME* – new exhibition by Christian Falsnaes at Copenhagen Contemporary**

Remember to disinfect. Keep a distance. Stay home. Instructions from the government have become part and parcel of everyday life with the advent of COVID-19 and, in this country, the prime minister has asked us to modify our behaviour in simple, precise terms.

On 26 August, the doors open at Copenhagen Contemporary (CC) to the exhibition *LOOK AT ME* by the artist Christian Falsnaes, who is highly acclaimed abroad, but little known in Denmark. In his works, Falsnaes addresses power relations and the tension field between authorities and individuals, museums and visitors, artists and performers. He touches a raw nerve at the present time when he investigates how we react when an authority – a prime minister, a president, an artist – speaks to us using the imperative. Falsnaes stuns, moves, and challenges his audience and, with the exhibition *LOOK AT ME*, visitors now have a chance to experience the methods of this artist for themselves.

### **Accompany Falsnaes in the studio, to a party, and to an exhibition**

In Hall 2, visitors will step into something resembling an art fair where the works are separated by white walls. Whereas art fairs usually present the galleries' varied selections of the very best of art, visitors are here met by the same video work being played synchronously on each of the six stands. Visitors explore the installation wearing headphones.

The video work comprises six scenes showing how Falsnaes and the performer, Minni Katina Mertens, choreograph each other and the audience in a number of scenes. We watch them, for example, ordering each other about and we see how they manage to make the audience twist and turn in specific ways in the concert hall at VEGA – all of it controlled by the camera lens and words from the performer. At the end of the film, all screens go black. Now it's your turn.

### **One with the work**

In *LOOK AT ME*, Falsnaes addresses the problems associated with using other people as artistic material when he directs the movements of the performer or orders the people in an entire hall about. By not only involving himself but others, too, in his performances, Falsnaes redirects focus on us and our reactions, making us the central aspect of the work. In this way, he dissolves our distance to the art, instead making us part of it.

### **Power of the gaze**

Everywhere, cameras have become central to our culture where we constantly perform and stage ourselves via social media, for example. Everything is curated or controlled by someone – like the scenes in *LOOK AT ME*. In this way, the exhibition also addresses the significance of images in our culture and Falsnaes uses the camera as an authority helping to control the audience.

It can be a provocative, funny, and transcendent experience to take part in Falsnaes's work. The effects are intriguing. He makes us reflect on how authority is generated and the mechanisms governing our social behaviour. How would we, for example, react to instructions during a potential second wave of COVID-19?

### **About Christian Falsnaes**

Christian Falsnaes (b.1980 in Copenhagen) lives and works in Berlin. He studied philosophy at the University of Copenhagen and graduated from the Akademie der Bildenden Künste, Vienna, in 2011. Falsnaes has achieved international acclaim, is represented in several collections, and has shown all over the world. Among his recent solo shows are Kunstmuseen Krefeld, Bielefelder Kunstverein, Kunstverein Braunschweig, and Kunsthalle Mannheim, Germany, arteBA and Juan & Patricia Vergez Collection, Buenos Aires, Argentina, the Yarat Contemporary Art Space in Baku, Azerbaijan, 1646 in the Hague, the Netherlands and, in Denmark, at Andersen's Contemporary and the National Gallery of Denmark, Copenhagen.

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### **Invitation to press preview on 26 August at 10.00–11.00**

Before opening the doors to the public, there will be a press preview of *LOOK AT ME* in the presence of the artist. To mark the occasion, CC serves a light breakfast.

Venue: the foyer at CC.

**Program**

- Welcome by Marie Nipper, Director at CC
- Light breakfast and introduction to the exhibition by Senior Curator Jannie Haagemann
- Christian Falsnaes introduces *LOOK AT ME*

**NB: Please register for the press preview by contacting Line Glavind on [lineglavind@cphco.org](mailto:lineglavind@cphco.org) on or before 25 August at 14.00.**

There will be an opening celebration from 17.00–20.00 on the same day. No prior booking is required for this event.

**Press kit and images are available for download from the CC website. The folder is updated again on 26 August:**

<https://copenhagencontemporary.org/en/press/>

**Press contact**

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**CC is kindly 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 and Ferm Living.

**Copenhagen Contemporary**

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