



A tennis court, an artificial beach, and artworks created from light and space

2021 is here and we look ahead in spite of a tough start with yet more COVID-19 restrictions. At Copenhagen Contemporary (CC), we can now introduce the art experiences awaiting our guests in 2021. The new year presents art by Danish and international stars mirroring our times and initiating dialogues about identity, power relations, politics, and climate changes. The exhibitions lined up for the year ahead will feature artists such as Elmgreen & Dragset, Lilibeth Cuenca Rasmussen, Sarah Lucas, Andreas Gursky, Robert Irwin, Helen Pashgian and many more.

25.03.–24.10.21

Art of Sport

The world of sport for better or for worse

In a year characterised by great international sporting events, both nationally and internationally, CC kicks off with a major group exhibition entitled *Art of Sport*.

To some, sport represents a free space, communal activities, and self-development whereas others experience it as frightening, excluding, and associated with rivalry, extremism, and unhealthy body focus. This duality is the subject examined in *Art of Sport* as the exhibition paints an all-round picture of the nature of sport. Via a number of works by national and international artists, CC zooms in on the hero worship and idolisation associated with sport, its gender and ethnicity codes, its mechanisms for inclusion and exclusion, and the relationship of sport with politics, power, and money.

The exhibition features works by more than thirty major artists, including Mark Bradford, Sarah Lucas, Louka Anargyros, Sylvie Fleury, Jeff Koons, Kota Ezawa, Hank Willis Thomas, Lyle Ashton Harris, Olaf Nicolai, Paul Pfeiffer, Kahlil Joseph, Nicolai Howalt, Rineke Dijkstra, Catherine Opie, Erik A. Frandsen, Lea Guldditte Hestelund, Robert Mapplethorpe, Camille Henrot, and many more.

25.03 – 24.10.2021

Elmgreen & Dragset

Short Story

Who is the winner and who is the loser?

The theme of sport re-emerges in the large-scale total installation *Short Story* created by the Danish-Norwegian artist duo Elmgreen & Dragset.

The narrative of *Short Story* unfolds on a tennis court where two white-painted bronze sculptures of young boys have just finished a game. The boys' bodies are turned away from one another and their gazes averted and, instead of pleasure, there seems to be a sense of discomfort after the game on the part of both the winner and loser. The scene in *Short Story* is like a still, capturing the moment after a game – but it is up to the audience to form the narrative. *Short Story* does not give us much in the way of answers or explanations, but it provides an arena for reflection and discussion of topics such as competition, individualism, inclusion, and exclusion.

29.04.–05.09.21

Lilibeth Cuenca Rasmussen

I am not what you see

Nomadic life across time, geography, and identity

In April, CC opens its doors to *I am not what you see*, created by the visual and performance artist Lilibeth Cuenca Rasmussen. With her critical and humorous approach, Lilibeth directs focus on questions of ethnicity, gender, social relations, and affiliation, examining the living spaces which, in various ways, thematise nomadic life across time, geography, and identity. During the exhibition period, *I am not what you see* will be activated by a series of performances around and inside the new works.

For the exhibition, Lilibeth Cuenca Rasmussen has collaborated with *sur le chemin*, design studio.

29.05.21–01.06.21

Sun & Sea

Visit the beach in the exhibition hall

From above, we look down across an expansive sandy beach, complete with sunbathing visitors, a mosaic of towels, colourful beach wear, and plastic toys. Life on the beach unfolds like a performance without beginning or end: groups of holiday-makers spending a carefree day by the seaside. The idyllic scene is a sharp contrast to the question raised by the work about our own future and that of the planet.

The opera *Sun & Sea*, winner of the Golden Lion at the Venice Biennale in 2019, is a unique work sung by more than twenty-eight opera singers and set on an artificial beach in the exhibition hall at CC. This production sees the opera genre, as we know it, revitalised in a new form where song, music, and visual art converge to provide an outstanding total experience.

We consider the opportunity to stage *Sun & Sea* in Denmark in collaboration with the dramatic art festival CPH STAGE and the comprehensive art project TRAVERS in connection with the CPH STAGE event at the end of May to be a major event for CC.

25.06.–05.09.21

Celeste

The power of unhurriedness

The artists Lea Guldditte Hestelund, Ea Verdoner, Cæcilie Trier, and August Rosenbaum will jointly create the exhibition *Celeste*, uniting sculpture, choreography, video, sound, and music in an immersive installation. Our senses are sharpened in a soundproof darkness and *Celeste* reminds us of man's fragility and the power of unhurriedness. In the fashion of a closet drama, the exhibition is structured in acts and you are invited to enter a sensory room where *Celeste* takes form as a story spanning different forms of corporeality.

25.11.21–04.09.22

Light & Space

When art is created from light and space

The year concludes with the largest exhibition to date at CC when superstars from the American Light and Space movement and the contemporary artists inspired by this will take over the entire art centre.

In November 2021, a unique exhibition will be unveiled at CC about the American light and space art that emerged in Los Angeles in the 1960s.

This was a time when a number of young artists – all of them now world names on the international art scene – experimented with creating art from light and new materials. Nowadays they are known collectively as the Light and Space movement whose protagonists include international superstars like James Turrell, Robert Irwin, Doug Wheeler, Larry Bell, Helen Pashgian, Mary Corse, and many others.

The new departures and experiments introduced by the artists from the Light and Space movement during the second half of the twentieth century have inspired and shaped several contemporary artists and architects.

A comprehensive exhibition highlighting the Light and Space movement has never before been staged in Europe. In this exhibition, the audience will meet a number of the central figures from this movement, including female artists who are still unknown to most people.

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