

PRESS RELEASE

26 May 2015



Afgang 2015 – MFA Degree Show

Press view: Wednesday 3 June at 11:00

Opening reception: Thursday 4 June at 19:00 – 22:00

Exhibition run: 5 June – 2 August 2015

It is with great anticipation and pleasure that Kunsthall Charlottenborg and the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts' Schools of Visual Art once again presents Academy's annual MFA Degree Show: *Afgang 2015*. Here, twenty-nine graduating students from the Schools of Visual Art will conclude their six years of studies by presenting all-new works created for this occasion.

Rector of the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts' Schools of Visual Art, Sanne Kofod, says:

As recently appointed rector, this year I will be opening the Academy's MFA Degree Show for the first time, and I am incredibly excited about seeing the graduating students' works and projects. The graduates have been working hard all year on very ambitious projects, ably assisted by our Academy professors and our two curators on the project: Julia Rodrigues and Francesca Astesani from South into North.

The exhibition points in several directions all at once – both in terms of the conceptual and visual approaches on display, and in terms of the media and materials used by the artists. Being a presentation of the work of twenty-nine individual artists with separate agendas and interests, *Afgang 2015* does not focus on a single theme or trend – rather, this unique group show offers a palette of outlooks, each of which reflects and mediates on the time in which we live.

Sci-fi and (im)possibilities

Several of the artists featured in this year's exhibition have explored and drawn on the science fiction genre, perhaps in an attempt at charting the future, thereby offering us a closer and clearer look at our present. Other artists also evince a general fascination with technology; a fascination that gives rise to a range of technical experiments. Overall, themes such as 'processes' and 'temporality' are main focus areas, as is evident in the widespread interest in ritual, circuits, repetition and Sisyphus-like monotony – often supplemented by a similar attraction to anti-hero figures and the private sphere.

Reflections on the relationship between art and the world are a natural part of any art education, and such deliberations are certainly much in evidence at this MFA Degree Show.

Mixed media, wallpapers and intaglio printing

Materiality remains an important concern for the contemporary art scene today. A general awareness that we are surrounded by matter, made up of matter, and that we do not stand

above the realm of the material is clearly evident at this year's degree show. The artists have chosen a wide range of different materials, and those choses are obviously very deliberate – a fact that is also reflected in numerous titles.

Most works mix several different media and materials: some feature plants united with video, metal and silk; others bring together marble, rubber tiles and mirrors. Synthetic DNA, a cave spider and sugar crystals have also found their way into the exhibition. At the same time, classic genres such as painting, printmaking, intaglio prints and sculpture are all extensively represented this year. Other artists also present wallpapers, video works, photography, installation art and performance pieces.

About *Afgang 2015*

The twenty-nine graduating artists are: Alen Aligrudic, Amalie Smith, Andreas Nykvist, Anna Sjöström, Anna Ørberg, Bjarke Hvass Kure, Claus Spangsberg, Emil Rønn Andersen, Emil Toldbod, Felia Gram-Hanssen, Fredrik Zimling Tydén, Jean Marc Routhie, Julie Riis Andersen, Karl Isakson, Kasper Holm Jensen, Lea Guldditte Hestelund, Malene Mathiasson, Margarita del Carmen, Martin Aagaard Hansen, Mathias Sæderup, Mette Clausen, Michael Christensen 'Stoffer', Miriam Haile, Ninon Birla, Owen Griffiths, Radmila Jovovic, Sidsel Carré, Vebjørn Guttormsgaard Møllberg, Viktoria Wendel Skousen.

The exhibition was co-ordinated by curators Francesca Astesani and Julia Rodrigues from *South into North*. The two curators also installed the exhibition in co-operation with the graduates.

The graduating students come from the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts' seven schools: The Painting School under professor Anette Abrahamsson, the Charlottenborg School of Sculpture under professor Martin Erik Andersen, the School of Graphics under professor Thomas Locher, the School of language, space and scale under professor Katya Sander, the School of Media Art under professor Angela Melitopoulos, the School of Wall and Space under professor Nils Norman and the School of Time-Based Media under professor Gerard Byrne.

Catalogue

The *Afgang 2015* exhibition is accompanied by a digital catalogue. Created by the graduates, the catalogue will be regularly updated, presenting the works and practices of each individual artist: www.afgangskataloget.dk

Official opening of *Afgang 2015*

The official opening will take place on Thursday 4 June 2015 from 19:00 to 22:00

19.30 Speeches: Sanne Kofod and Henriette Bretton-Meyer

20:00 Performance: Silent Spring

20.30 Performance: Felia Gram-Hanssen

21.30 Performance: Miriam Halle (in co-operation with Samuel Kpabitey)

The exhibition run will include numerous performances – visit our website for details: kunsthalchalottenborg.dk

Invitation: press view

Charlottenborg invites members of the press to attend a press view on Wednesday 3 June at 11:00. Many of the artists will be present, as will Henriette Bretton-Meyer, acting director of Kunst Charlottenborg, and the curators Francesca Astesani and Julia Rodrigues from *South into North*.

Press services

Members of the press are kindly asked to contact:

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Press images will be available for download via www.kunsthalcharlottenborg.dk from 4 June.

Opening hours and admission fees

Tuesdays – Sundays 11:00 to 17:00. Wednesdays 11:00 to 20:00
Adults: DKK 60 / Students: DKK 40 / OAPs: DKK 40 / Groups: DKK 40
Admission is free on Wednesdays from 17:00 to 20:00

Afgang 2015 is sponsored by:

