

KUNSTHAL CHARLOTTENBORG

Press release

Copenhagen, 7 August 2017

Kunsthall Charlottenborg Presents the Greatest Outsider of Danish Art

This September Kunsthall Charlottenborg opens its doors for the most extensive exhibition of Danish outsider artist Ovartaci to date. Alongside a complete presentation of the artist's works, a series of leading contemporary artists show work that reflects Ovartaci's practice.

Exhibition period: 16 September 2017 – 14 January 2018

Opening: Friday 15 September 2017, from 7–10pm



For the first time in Denmark, the collected oeuvre of the exceptional artist [Ovartaci](#), is presented outside of its permanent home at the Museum Ovartaci, located at the psychiatric hospital in Risskov near Århus. With its very specific combination of works, the exhibition *Ovartaci & the Art of Madness* at Kunsthall Charlottenborg, wishes to open up a dialogue about madness; to question how it is perceived in our society today and to explore its potential as a productive and creative force.

Ovartaci's art – and the history of Ovartaci as a person and a patient – function as a prism through which a number of leading contemporary artists reflect on themes such as madness, psychiatry, gender and identity. The participating artists include [Angela Melitopoulos](#), [Maria Meinild](#), [Tamar Guimarães](#) & [Kasper Akhøj](#), [Lea Porsager](#), Jota Mombaça, [Pettersen & Hein](#) and Sidsel Meineche Hansen.

Asger Jorn was a great admirer of Ovartaci and the theme of creative intensity is further contextualised through the incorporation of the kindergarten Hjortøgade at Østerbro in Copenhagen, which in 1944 was decorated by, among others, Asger Jorn, Ejler Bille, Constant and Henry.

Alongside the exhibition, the Kunsthall's cinema will present a number of art and documentary films that expand on the subject of psychiatry and art as well as the history of psychiatry. Additionally, a series of special events will also be presented as part of the exhibition.

Exceptional artist with an exceptional background

Ovartaci is the most important exponent of what is known as Art Brut or outsider art in Denmark. The name Ovartaci, the alias of the artist whose given name was Louis Marcussen (1894-1985), can be read as a rewriting of the word 'Overtosse' ('head of the fools'), and was favoured by the artist since hospitalization at the Psychiatric Hospital in Risskov in 1926.

Louis Marcussen was a patient for 56 years at the psychiatric ward in Risskov. Over the course of more than fifty years she created a 1000 multi-faceted works that, within a national as well as an international context, are truly unique in terms of both form and content. The figurative and almost surrealistic conception of imaginative motifs, with transformations and transitions between man and woman; animal and human beings; landscape and face, recur throughout Ovartaci's universe. The works appear to be at once both two-dimensional and three-dimensional, both painting and sculpture.

Facts about the exhibition

Ovartaci & The Art of Madness

Ovartaci, Angela Melitopoulos, Maria Meinild, Tamar Guimarães & Kasper Akhøj, Lea Porsager, Jota Mombaça, Pettersen & Hein, Sidsel Meineche Hansen

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Kunsthall Charlottenborg, Nyhavn 2, 1051 København K

Entrance fee: 75 kr. (free entrance during the opening)

Read more about the exhibition: kunsthal Charlottenborg.dk/da/udstillinger/ovartaci/

Social media hashtag: #ovartaci #galskabenskunst #theartofmadness #ovartaci på Charlottenborg

The exhibition is organised in collaboration with Museum Ovartaci and curated by Mathias Kryger. The exhibition is supported by Augustinus Fonden, C.A.C. Fonden, Knud Højgaard's Fond, Grosserer L. F. Foghts Fond, Det Obelske Familiefond, Konsul George Jorck og Hustru Emma Jorck's Fond og Statens Kunstfond.

Press material

Press material, including high-resolution images, can be found on the Kunsthall's website below the description of the exhibition: kunsthal Charlottenborg.dk/da/udstillinger/ovartaci/

Photo credit, images on press release from left to right:
Art work by Ovartaci, photography by Museum Ovartaci.

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