

# Charlottenborg

## PRESS RELEASE

3 December 2013



*Foreigners, Please Don't Leave us Alone..., 2002*



*Flooded McDonald's, 2009*

## Charlottenborg celebrates 20 years with the artists' group [REDACTED]

In December, Kunsthall Charlottenborg will be opening its doors to the most comprehensive showing ever of the works of [REDACTED], when the Danish artists' group's 20th anniversary is celebrated with an unconventional retrospective exhibition. Eight internationally renowned curators are presenting eight simultaneous [REDACTED] exhibitions – and one of the exhibition concepts bans both Charlottenborg and the artists' group itself from using the name [REDACTED].

Jacob Fabricius, director of Kunsthall Charlottenborg, says:

*'[REDACTED] has been one of the most important contributions to the development of the Danish art scene over the past two decades. They have also attracted considerable international attention with their many debate-creating works and projects. It is therefore something of a scoop for Kunsthall Charlottenborg to be able to host no less than eight simultaneous [REDACTED] exhibitions at once.'*

### [REDACTED] – banned by contract

*"One of our curator teams, Lisa Rosendahl and Daniel McClean (SE/UK) has made life difficult for us all with a contract that simply prohibits both Kunsthall Charlottenborg and [REDACTED] from mentioning [REDACTED] by name. I cannot even say who it is we are exhibiting," Jacob Fabricius continues.*

### **Working Title: "A Retrospective Curated by [REDACTED]"**

*With Yuko Hasegawa (JP), Eungie Joo (US), Toke Lykkeberg (DK), Lisa Rosendahl & Daniel McClean (SE/UK), Adriano Pedrosa (BR), Agustin Pérez Rubio (ES), Hilde Teerlinck (NL) and Rirkrit Tiravanija (TH/US)*

**Press preview: Wednesday 11 December at 11.00 am (lunch 12.00 pm)**

**Seminar: *I Love This Company*, [REDACTED], Thursday 12 December 2013, kl.10-16, The Festsal, The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts' Schools of Visual Arts, Kongens Nytorv**

**Opening reception: Thursday 12 December 2013, 7.00 pm - midnight**

**Exhibition period: 13 December 2013 - 2 February 2014**

You can read about the contractual ban on mentioning the name [REDACTED] in the document 'Contract' in

the bottom of this document. See below for details about the artists' group and practical information on events, seminars and the eight retrospective exhibitions at Kunsthall Charlottenborg.

### **Press preview**

Charlottenborg invites you to attend a press viewing at 11.00 am on Wednesday 11 December, at which the exhibition will be presented by Jacob Fabricius, director of Kunsthall Charlottenborg. [REDACTED] and the exhibition curators will be present. The press viewing will conclude with lunch in Café Charlottenborg. To facilitate the practical implementation of the event, please register your attendance with Mia Flindt at: mf@kunsthallcharlottenborg.dk by 9 December.

### **Press**

For press inquiries, please contact press officer Helle Bøgelund: +45 3374 4633 / helleh@kunsthallcharlottenborg.dk, or director Jacob Fabricius: +45 3374 4630 / jf@kunsthallcharlottenborg.dk.

Press photographs may be downloaded from www.kunsthallcharlottenborg.dk or [REDACTED].net The artists' group's own website also contains detailed information on a wide range of works and projects.

The exhibitions are supported by the Danish Arts Council, Montana by Peter and Joakim Lassen, Nils Stærk and Hewlett-Packard Company

### **Information about the artists**

[REDACTED] has been in existence since 1993 and consists of Bjørnstjerne Reuter Christiansen (b. 1969), Jakob Fenger (b. 1968) and Rasmus Nielsen (b. 1969). The group describe their projects and works as *tools* – in a form that can be activated and often changed by the audience, the *users*. The group's multifaceted artistic practice is characterised by a continuing interest in exploring social, political and cultural conditions.

[REDACTED] create their own game rules and humorously and intelligently challenge accepted conventions in relation to, for example, copyright, power structures, design and finances. Throughout their career, a hallmark of the group has been their working method of co-operating with others, whether artists, professionals from other fields, or local users.

### **Eight retrospective exhibitions under one roof**

In co-operation with [REDACTED], Kunsthall Charlottenborg has chosen an unconventional approach to the concept of a retrospective exhibition: Eight international curators and curator teams have been invited to provide their own suggestions for a retrospective exhibition of [REDACTED]. In combination, the eight resulting exhibitions constitute *Working Title: A Retrospective Curated by [REDACTED]*. All of the artists' group's works and projects over the years have been made available to the curators, and the exhibition is presenting more than 100 works on the first floor of Kunsthall Charlottenborg. Consequently, this is the largest-ever exhibition by [REDACTED]. There will be an opportunity to experience both a large number of older iconic works such as *Supergas* (1996), *Foreigners, please don't leave us alone with the Danes* (2002) and *Free Beer* (2004), as well as works of more recent date, such as *Flooded McDonalds* (2009), *Free Sol Lewitt* (2010) and *Bankrupt Banks* (2012).

The eight retrospective exhibitions with [REDACTED] are:

#### ***Metatool***

curated by Yuko Hasegawa (JP)

#### **[REDACTED] / RESUME**

curated by Eungie Joo (US)

#### ***Branding as Branding – the Making of [REDACTED]***

curated by Toke Lykkeberg (DK)

#### **[REDACTED] retrospective – a value-escalating machine**

curated by Lisa Rosendahl & Daniel McClean (SE/UK)

#### **FOREIGN PERSPECTIVE**

curated by Adriano Pedrosa (BR)

### **Collaborative Virus**

curated by Agustin Pérez Rubio (ES)

### **Free Copies & 2 Video Pieces**

curated by Hilde Teerlinck (NL)

### **██████████: a retrospective of censored, "unrealised" and untold stories**

curated by Rirkrit Tiravanija (TH/US)

The curators have at no time been aware of each other's concepts, and several works have been selected by more than one curator. These works therefore appear several times. The eight exhibitions have a wide range and focus on various aspects of the artistic practice of ██████████, from the artists' group's early interest in branding and corporate identity (Toke Lykkeberg) to working with others as a central working method (Agustin Pérez Rubio) and projects which, for example for reasons of copyright law, have been censored and prevented from being realised (Rirkrit Tiravanija). Lisa Rosendahl & Daniel McClean have on the other hand chosen to use one of ██████████'s own tools to create a new work: *Contract between ██████████, Kunsthal Charlottenborg, Lisa Rosendahl and Daniel McClean* (2013). The contract referred to in the title of the work states that Kunsthal Charlottenborg may not at any time mention the artists' group's name, neither in writing nor in speech, until the end of the exhibition period, e.g. in press releases, websites, catalogues, guided tours, advertising, etc. The contract, which is to be found in the bottom of this document, is reminiscent of a controversial contract that ██████████ signed with the Royal Theatre in Copenhagen, whose staff were not allowed to use words like "ticket", "instructor" or "performance" for a period in 2007.

### **Seminar**

On the opening day of the exhibition, 12 December 2013, a seminar will be held with the title *I Love This Company*, ██████████. At the seminar, the exhibition curators will present their exhibition projects and discuss aspects of ██████████'s practice with invited guests who will contribute professional expertise from fields other than contemporary art. The seminar, organised by art critic Jacob Lillemose PhD, will take place at 10:00 am – 4:00 pm in the Festsal of the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts' Schools of Visual Arts, Kongens Nytorv 1, DK-1050 Copenhagen K.

### **Catalogue**

In connection with the exhibition, a comprehensive and richly-illustrated catalogue will be published, containing the eight curators' exhibition concepts and documenting the twenty-year career of ██████████, with a complete overview of all their projects and works to date. The publication is edited by Pernille Albrethsen and designed by the Rasmus Koch Studio. Expected publication date: mid-January 2014.

### **Events**

During the exhibition period, Kunsthal Charlottenborg will provide the setting for a series of events relating to the exhibition; see [www.kunsthalcharlottenborg.dk](http://www.kunsthalcharlottenborg.dk) for further details.

### **Opening hours and prices**

Tuesday-Sunday 11.00 am-5.00 pm, Wednesday 11.00 am-8.00 pm (free admission 5.00-8.00 pm). Adults DKK 60 / Students DKK 40/ Pensioners DKK 40 / Groups DKK 40

### **Address**

Kunsthal Charlottenborg, Nyhavn 2, 1051 Copenhagen K, Denmark [www.kunsthalcharlottenborg.dk](http://www.kunsthalcharlottenborg.dk)

### **Biographies**

██████████ The group has been in existence since 1993 and consists of Bjørnstjerne Reuter Christiansen (b. 1969), Jakob Fenger (b. 1968) and Rasmus Nielsen (b. 1969), all graduates of the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts' Schools of Visual Arts in Copenhagen.

██████████ has exhibited at leading international museums and galleries throughout the world, including Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk, Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt, Kunsthalle Basel, Basel, the Science Museum, London; Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven and MoMA, New York, and has participated in

numerous international biennials. Recently, the artist group opened a major solo exhibition at *Fundación Jumex Arte Contemporáneo* in Ecatepec, Mexico (until 2 February 2014).

In Denmark, [REDACTED] is known for, inter alia, the biogas project *Supergas* (1996), the poster project *Foreigners, please don't leave us alone with the Danes* (2002), *Free Beer* (2004) and most recently *Superkilen* (Super Wedge) (2011) – a permanent park in outer Nørrebro in Copenhagen, designed in collaboration with the architectural firm Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG).

### The curators

**Yuko Hasegawa** is a curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOT) in Tokyo, Japan

**Eungie Joo** is director of Art and Cultural Programmes at the *Instituto Inhotim*, Brumadinho, Brazil

**Toke Lykkeberg** works as an independent curator and art critic, and lives in Copenhagen

**Adriano Pedrosa** works as an independent curator and lives in Sao Paulo, Brazil

**Lisa Rosendahl** is director of IASPIS, Stockholm, Sweden;

**Daniel McClean** is a solicitor and independent curator, and lives in London, UK

**Agustin Pérez Rubio** works as an independent curator and lives in New York, USA

**Hilde Teerlinck** is director of the *Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain Nord-Pas de Calais* (FRAC) in Dunkirk, France

**Rirkrit Tiravanija** is a visual artist and lives in Chiang Mai, Thailand, Berlin, Germany and New York, USA

### Three central works by the artists' group [REDACTED]

#### ***Supergas* (1996)**

Since 1996, the artist group [REDACTED] has co-operated with European, African and most recently Mexican engineers to create and develop simple biogas plants for families living in rural areas where electricity, heat and gas is not available. The Supergas plants were developed so that organic waste – such as the faeces of animals and human beings – could be reused to provide light and heat. The first Supergas project was carried out in central Tanzania, in collaboration with the African organisation SURUDE (Sustainable Rural Development). Supergas is the artist group's earliest project, mimicking the work of NGOs to develop the idea of art as a socially activating open-source product.  
[www.supergas.dk](http://www.supergas.dk)

#### ***Guaraná Power*, 2003:**

For many years, the artists' group has had a sustained interest in replica products. With this focus, they examine the impact of licences, patents and copyright legislation, both locally and globally. With works like *SUPERCOPY* (2002) and *Copyshop* (2005), [REDACTED] questions the division between original and copy – how far can you modify a copy of an original before it is no longer a copy, but rather a new original? *Guaraná Power* (2003) is a soft drink made in collaboration with Brazilian guaraná farmers and the Danish organic food producer Nature Fresh. *Guaraná Power* is a copy of a world-famous soft drink, which places a spotlight on the rights (or lack thereof) of Brazilian farmers, and the power of the multinationals. *Guaraná Power* has been in production since 2004, and is sold in selected cafes.  
[www.guaranapower.org](http://www.guaranapower.org)

#### ***Superkilen* (2011)**

*Superkilen* (Superwedge) is a permanent park in the district of outer Nørrebro, Copenhagen, developed by [REDACTED] in co-operation with the architectural firms Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG) and Topotek1.

*Superkilen* consists of the Green Zone, which is intended for picnics, sports and dog walking, the Black Market with a fountain and benches, and Red Square, where there are cafés and music and sports facilities. In *Superkilen* you can find lamp-posts, benches, fountains, neon signs, swings, etc., collected from more than 50 different countries, all requested and chosen by residents living in the neighbourhood of the park. *Superkilen* has gained worldwide attention for its architectural concept and concrete involvement of local residents; the project was for example nominated for the prestigious architectural Mies van der Rohe Prize in 2013. Size: 30,000 m<sup>2</sup> / 750 metre long public space  
[www.superkilen.dk](http://www.superkilen.dk)

# CONTRACT

## Parties to this contract ('the Contract') are

- (1) SUPERFLEX, Blågårdsgade 11b, DK-2200, Copenhagen, Denmark ('SUPERFLEX');
- (2) Kunsthal Charlottenborg, Nyhavn 2, DK-1051, Copenhagen, Denmark ('Charlottenborg');
- (3) Daniel McClean and Lisa Rosendahl, c/o Howard Kennedy FSI LLP, 179 Great Portland St., London, W1W 5LS, UK ('the Curators').

### Recitals

(A) SUPERFLEX is a Copenhagen based artists' group.

(B) Charlottenborg is the official exhibition gallery of the Royal Danish Academy of Arts.

(C) The Curators have been invited by SUPERFLEX and Charlottenborg to participate in a retrospective exhibition dedicated to the work of SUPERFLEX with other curators. This exhibition with the title: 'Working Title: A Retrospective Curated by SUPERFLEX' ('the Exhibition') will be held at Charlottenborg's exhibition venue (12th December 2013 - 2nd February 2014).

(D) As part of their curatorial contribution to the Exhibition, the Curators have invited SUPERFLEX and Charlottenborg to enter into the Contract in order to discuss the value of the name and artistic brand, 'SUPERFLEX' and its relationship to the Exhibition as a 'value escalating machine'.

In consideration of the mutual promises and obligations of the parties set out below, the parties now hereby agree as follows:

### 1. Term

The Contract shall become legally effective as of the date entered below and shall continue in full force unless terminated earlier, until the expiry of the Exhibition period ('the Term').

### 2. Obligations

SUPERFLEX and Charlottenborg undertake for the duration of the Term not to communicate, use or publish in any manner or form

(including in lower and upper case) the word, 'SUPERFLEX'. Charlottenborg's obligation shall apply to all external and internal communications of its employees and sub-contractors.

### 3. Exclusions

SUPERFLEX'S obligation shall only apply to its external and internal communications made in relation to the Exhibition. The Contract itself may be published without limitation as an information tool in order that the public and Charlottenborg's employees and sub-contractors may become familiar with its rules.

### 4. Remedies

4.1 If SUPERFLEX breaches the Contract, SUPERFLEX agrees to publicly disclose including on its website and within the Exhibition, the artwork created by SUPERFLEX which SUPERFLEX considers to have the lowest value in its artistic production. This remedy will be repeated for each breach of the Contract by SUPERFLEX for a previously undisclosed SUPERFLEX artwork considered by the artists to be of lowest value.

4.2 If Charlottenborg breaches the Contract, Charlottenborg agrees that for each breach it will pay the Danish Art Academy's student organisation, De Studerendes Råd, ten per cent (10%) of the gross Exhibition sales income received by it on the day in which the breach occurred.

### 5. Governing law and jurisdiction

The Contract shall be governed solely by the law of Denmark and the parties hereto submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of Denmark.

Signed by the parties or their duly authorised representatives on 2 December 2013.

For SUPERFLEX

Jakob Fenger

Rasmus Nielsen

Bjørnstjerne Christiansen

**SUPERFLEX**

For Kunsthal Charlottenborg

Jacob Fabricius

For the Curators

Daniel McClean

Lisa Rosendahl