

“CONVERSATIONS”

NIKOLAJ
KUNSTHAL

COPENHAGEN ART FESTIVAL

August 24 - October 21 2012

At Nikolaj, Copenhagen Contemporary Art Center, a number of internationally acclaimed contemporary artists focus on the communication between individual and community with the exhibition *Conversations* during the Copenhagen Art Festival.

Kutlug Ataman (TUR), Mohamed Bourouissa (F), Dias & Riedweg (BR/CH), Lise Harlev (DK), Otto Karvonen (FI), Katarzyna Kozyra (PL), Rafael Lozano-Hemmer (MEX/CAN), Manifest.AR (var. nationalities), and SUPERFLEX (DK).

How does the individual make himself or herself heard in the community? And how does the community impart its values to the individual?

At the group exhibition *Conversations*, nine international contemporary artists present works reflecting, subverting or pointing to alternatives to our usual ways of expressing ourselves and communicating with each other.

The exhibition can be found not only inside but also outside Nikolaj - for instance on the tall tower of the church building, on Strøget (the walking street) and in the digital sphere, through smartphones.

In a beautiful sound work by Rafael Lozano-Hemmer we are invited to contribute to a cacophony of voices, shining brightly and replacing each other as time passes. In Turkish Kutlug Ataman's large video work *Beggars* we see them appealing to passers-by with silent gestures: a non-verbal appeal from individuals who find themselves outside the normal communities. French Mohamed Bourouissa also documents the nooks of community with his photos and experimental video works, while Katarzyna Kozyra in *Summertale* creates a subtle fairytale of mismatched individualists in a perfectionist community.

On Strøget in Copenhagen, the densely packed, hurrying crowd will enter into new temporary communities when Finnish Otto Karvonen's human fences create temporary spaces and bottlenecks on the way. While Otto Karvonen takes to the streets, Danish Lise Harlev's statement on the Nikolaj tower speaks out to the city from high above. Brazilian/Swiss artist duo Dias & Riedweg also focus on public statements and the impact of the individual - or lack of it - when they drive through Copenhagen on the opening night of the Festival while projecting a large video work on the back of a moving truck. The artist collective Manifest.AR employ augmented reality technology in order to open new cracks for public communication when they create virtual interventions in the streets of Copenhagen. The audience are invited to become a part of a series of virtual projects via smartphones, among these on the fronts of buildings around Nikolaj, Copenhagen Contemporary Art Center, and Amagertorv. Last but not least, the Danish artists group SUPERFLEX presents a brand new work: *Mærsk - The Opera* - an opera in three acts about The Opera House in Copenhagen and the benefactor behind it, Mærsk McKinney Møller. The work will be presented as a national gift to the Opera and the Danish Minister for Culture on the opening day of the Festival, August 24 at 18:00.

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Events at and around Nikolaj, Copenhagen Contemporary Art Center:

August 24 at 18:00: Presentation of SUPERFLEX's national gift
August 24 at 19:00: Street action: *Moving Truck* by Dias & Riedweg
August 25 at 13:00: Performance: Otto Karvonen: *The Quest for a Border*
August 25 at 15:00: Workshop: Manifest.AR: augmented reality workshop
August 31 from 17:00 to 20:00: POP-UP bar with FOS
September 6 from 17:00 to 18:00: Artist talk with Katarzyna Kozyra
September 7 from 17:00 to 20:00: POP-UP bar with SUPERFLEX
September 13 at 17:00: Manymade Meal
September 14 from 17:00 to 20:00: POP-UP bar with Mogens Jacobsen
September 27 from 17:00 to 18:00: Artist talk with Lise Harlev

Please check www.nikolajkunsthaldk for further information about time and place and content.

Participating artists:

Mohamed Bourouissa (b. 1978, F)

Bourouissa was educated from the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs and Sorbonne in Paris where he lives and works. He works with the staged photo and video art in his experiments with film recorded on his mobile phone camera. Bourouissa investigates social stereotypes and the interplay between authenticity and performance in how these stereotypes are being communicated.

Otto Karvonen (b. 1975, FI)

Karvonen was educated at the University of Art and Design in Helsinki and the Sandberg Institute in Amsterdam. He works mainly with temporary performative interventions and installations in public space, often adding a humorous element, as in his road sign with the text "Keep Crossing Fingers": the official meets the personal.

Manifest.AR (var. nationalities)

Manifest.AR is an international artists collective that create virtual actions in politically loaded locations, using digital technology (smartphones with a Layar app) to insert controversial monuments and messages. The group has also made unofficial, virtual interventions at MoMa, N.Y., and the biennials of Istanbul and Venice 2011.

Lise Harlev (b. 1973, DK)

Educated at Städelschule in Frankfurt am Main and The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in 2002, Harlev addresses i.a. identity and nationality in works that graphically echo public space formats, e.g. posters and signs. Mixing subjective statements with signs, she creates tension between the layout and the subjective statement.

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Katarzyna Kozyra (b. 1963, PL)

Video and performance artist Katarzyna Kozyra's works address existential problems of cultural taboos, social behaviour and stereotypes. In these Kozyra plays with the relationship between the grotesque and the perfect in odd universes of midgets and herma-phrodites. Kozyra was educated at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw and lives and works in Warsaw and Berlin.

Rafael Lozano-Hemmer (b. 1967, MEX/CAN)

Working in the cross field of interactive installation, architecture and performance art, Lozano-Hemmer is mainly interested in creating space for public participation and interaction, using computer technology and surveillance. Represented Mexico at the Venice Biennale 2007; later shown at biennials in Sydney, Liverpool, Shanghai, Istanbul, Seoul and New Orleans

Dias & Riedweg (Mauricio Dias (b. 1964, BR) and Walter Riedweg (b. 1955, CH))

Since 1993, Dias & Riedweg have collaborated on public art projects. Their video work Throw (2004) called on people in central Helsinki to throw objects against a video camera behind a glass plate. The camera recordings were then intercut with historic photos of protest actions in Finland as an investigation of expressions of opinion in public space.

Kutlug Ataman (b. 1961, TUR)

Educated as a film director and visual artist, Ataman lives and works in London and Istanbul. One of Turkey's most prominent contemporary artists, his films combine a documentary style with a general human interest. They often portray individuals living on the fringes of society and investigate how they seek to express their identity. With the individual at the centre, his works are reflections on society in relation to social identities and power structures.

SUPERFLEX (Jakob Fenger (b. 1968), Rasmus Nielsen (b. 1969) and Bjørnstjerne Christiansen (b. 1969) DK)

Established in 1993 by three students of The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Superflex describe their works as democratic tools to address not only global problems, but also to present real alternatives to the reality in which they intervene. The group has e.g. worked with guarana farmers in the Amazon and created alternative energy in a village in Tanzania

Contact:

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