

**Nikolaj Kunsthal, Copenhagen Contemporary Art Centre  
February 6 to March 2 2014**

## **”FOKUS 2014 VIDEO ART FESTIVAL”**

# **The Copenhagen video art festival is back**

### **Press release**

For the fourth consecutive year, Nikolaj Kunsthal, Copenhagen Contemporary Art Centre, opens Denmark's largest video art festival.

From February 6 to March 2 2014, video art works by noted international names and new, budding talents, the popular and prestigious open call competition, events, talks, and various technological platforms can all be found at Nikolaj Kunsthal, while FOKUS CITY takes the festival out into the cityscape on video boxes set up for the occasion.

As a new dimension to the festival, FOKUS has joined forces with Wondercool, Statens Museum for Kunst (The National Gallery of Denmark) and Copenhagen Cooking in connection with a number of events.

**FOKUS 2014 video art festival opens with a big premiere night and the announcement of the winners of this year's open call on Thursday February 6 2014 from 6 to 10 pm at Nikolaj Kunsthal.**

### **Open call 2014**

The popular and prestigious open call competition is one of the main elements of FOKUS 2014. 147 videos from 15 countries are trying to win the jury's favour. The interdisciplinary panel of jurors have narrowed down the field to ten nominees, and on the opening night, the jury will announce the three winners.

The ten nominees are:

Yuval Yairi & Zohar Kawaharada (IL), *Land*, 2013

Helene Garberg (DK), *Interim*, 2013

Jacobus Capone (AUS), *Foreign Fado*, 2013

Mark Thorlander (DK), *####*, 2013

Margarida Paiva (NO), *Every Story Is Imperfect*, 2012

Marcus Shahar (IL), *Seeds*, 2012

Samira Hashemi (USA), *Ou She'r Mikhanad (She Reads the Poem)*, 2013

Heidi P. H. Nikolaisen (DK), *Education of the Dragchild*, 2013

Katja Adomeit (DK), *NOT AT HOME*, 2013

C Franco Maldonado (PRI), *Selfie as a Sundial*, 2013

The three winners, the ten nominees as well as all the other open call entrants can be seen at FOKUS 2014.

The jury is Michael Thouber, head of the DR2 channel of the Danish broadcasting corporation; Lars Movin, writer and filmmaker; Angela Melitopoulos, artist and professor at The School of Media Art, The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts; Elisabeth Delin Hansen, director, Nikolaj Kunsthal and Andreas Brøgger, curator, Nikolaj Kunsthal.

## **FOKUS 2014 video programme**

FOKUS 2014 presents the New York-based Danish artist Mads Lynnerup's *Moving Images*, a playful interactive installation in which four newly produced videos are projected from four corners onto a special turning screen, placed in the middle of the room, that guests can move and play with.

Danish video artist Katja Bjørn's double projection *Relief*, shown at the Women's Museum in Århus in 2013, and now on display at Nikolaj Kunsthal, is a must see for the Copenhagen audience. Katja Bjørn is known for her reconstructions of everyday objects where videos may peek out from drawers and from behind doors. *Relief*, however, is a magnificent double projection of a group of women and men, respectively, aiming to achieve an altered state.

German video artist, professor at The Royal Danish School of Fine Arts and jury member for this year's open call Angela Melitopoulos presents her early major work *Passing Drama* (1999). It is an impressive work, running for no less than 66 minutes; and Nikolaj Kunsthal looks forward to show the artistic universe of this new Academy professor of media art.

For FOKUS 2014, the Egyptian film and video curator Sherif Awad has planned a special Egyptian programme to reflect the national political and cultural conditions these years. This has produced a presentation of four video works by the three Egyptian artists Mohamed Abouelnaga, Khaled Hafez and Maha Maamoun who in each their way address how well-established symbols and expressions may take on new meanings.

FOKUS 2014 furthermore presents the premiere of *Løgn-detektoren* ("The Lie Detector") on Saturday February 8 at 3 pm at Nikolaj Kunsthal. Visual artist Tina Enghoff and a group of children and young people from the Folehaven area of Copenhagen together have made this film that reflects on lies and truths and the expectations we have to the stories we tell each other.

Finally, FOKUS 14 presents Christina Christensen, Nanna Lysholt Hansen, and Kristina Steinbock revisited: all nominees in connection with previous open calls. Now they are back with brand new works, and Nikolaj Kunsthal is extremely proud to present premieres from these up-and-coming artists.

## **FOKUS 2014 events**

In addition to the video programmes, various events, artist talks, Friday's bars and surprises will take place both inside and outside Nikolaj Kunsthal. Among these are:

### **Lunch Bytes**

The first *Lunch Bytes* in Copenhagen discusses the increasing trends towards a digitisation of art. Artists and experts, Danish and international, present their work as it relates to traditional art historical disciplines and media as well as the current digitisation of artistic practice, inviting a debate on the boundaries for new and traditional disciplines in the production of art.  
Saturday March 1, 3 pm at Nikolaj Kunsthal

### **BYOB - Bring Your Own Beamer + concerts at Chr. IVs Bryghus**

On February 21 and 22, the new and world wide video format *Bring Your Own Beamer* (BYOB) will rock Tøjhusmuseet (The Royal Danish Arsenal Museum). BYOB is an open format in which a large number of video artists and others working creatively with the video medium are invited to project ("beam") their video productions onto Tøjhusmuseets's unique historical walls, floors, ceilings and cannons.

In connection with BYOB, the adjacent Chr. IVs Bryghus is opened to a concert audience when the popular live act Turboweekend and up-and-coming radio darlings The Mountains each play two concerts on two consecutive nights.

The Mountains play on February 21 at 7:45 and 9:45 pm, Turboweekend on February 22 at 7:45 and 9:45 pm.

This year, Statens Museum for Kunst, SMK (The National Gallery of Denmark), will make reproductions of more than 100 historical works available to the BYOB participants. Over a number of years, SMK has taken part in international endeavours to assign creative commons rights to cultural material, and their contribution to BYOB is a part of this work.

The two events at Slotsholmen have been created in co-operation with FROST Festival and Statens Museum for Kunst, SMK, supported by Wonderful Copenhagen as a part of Wondercool.

Buy ticket

<http://www.visitcopenhagen.com/copenhagen/concerts-video-art-in-historic-buildings-gdk847321>

### **World premiere on a film in first person: Skammekrogen (“The Doghouse”)**

A dinner table with chairs is placed in the middle of the room. The table is set for five. On each plate a pair of glasses and a set of headphones are laid out. You sit down, put on your glasses and your headphones, and immediately a film begins in which you are the main character in the middle of a family drama with gravy, potatoes and toe-curling awkwardness.

Virtual reality is back in top form with the Oculus Rift technology, and in *Skammekrogen* (“The Doghouse”), you are given the opportunity to experience what the actor experiences – as if you were there yourself. You see what the actor sees, and you hear what the actor hears: you become a character in the film.

Come to the premiere of *Skammekrogen* with roast, brown gravy and potatoes and plenty of family (un)cosiness on Friday February 7 at 7 pm.

**The press is invited to a preview on February 7 from 10 am to 12 noon.**

*Skammekrogen* has been created by Johan Knattrup Jensen, Mads Damsbo and Dark Matters. The actors are Sofie Stougaard, Ole Boisen, Katrine Bruun, Benjamin Engell, and Sebastian Teschemacher.

### **Unique collaboration with Copenhagen Cooking**

The dinner is also a key element on February 8 and 15 at 7:30 pm when Nikolaj Kunsthø together with Copenhagen Cooking, the culinary artists from I’M A KOMBO and the wine importers Hvirvelvin invite you to dinner at the art centre.

*Taste of Emotions* will take as its starting point video works by Cuban-American artist Anthony Goicolea and Danish-Palestinian artist Larissa Sansour to mix culinary art with video art. Each course is composed in such a way as to enter into a dialogue with the video work chosen, talking by turns to, with and against it. The dinner will take place at various locations at Nikolaj Kunsthø.

This is the first time that Anthony Goicolea’s works are shown in Denmark. For this arrangement, a total of five works will be presented, the earliest from 2002 and the most recent from 2013. This evening is thus not merely a gastronomic event par excellence; it also offers the unique opportunity of experiencing a premiere of Goicolea’s beautiful and disturbed videos, revolving around neuroses, compulsive actions and budding sexuality.

Buy ticket

<http://billetto.dk/taste-of-emotions>

See the full event programme on [www.fokusfestival.dk](http://www.fokusfestival.dk)

The programme will be currently updated.

## **The opening hours change**

During the festival period from February 6 to March 2 2014, Nikolaj Kunsthal changes its opening hours:

Thursday to Friday 12 noon to 10 pm, Saturday to Sunday 12 noon to 5 pm; closed Monday to Wednesday. Prices: entrance ticket DKK 20.-; come-and-go-as-you-please ticket DKK 50.-.

FOKUS 2014 is supported by The Danish Arts Council, the City of Copenhagen, and Wondercool.

Collaboration partners: Statens Museum for Kunst, Copenhagen Cooking, FROST Festival, Skammekrogen, and KBH Læser.



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