

“TRACEY ROSE: WAITING FOR GOD”

NIKOLAJ
KUNSTHAL

December 1 2012 - January 27 2013

Nikolaj, Copenhagen Contemporary Art Center, presents the first ever exhibition in Denmark by South African artist Tracey Rose.



Tracey Rose: *Ciao Bella, Ms Cast: MAQEII*, 2002.

Tracey Rose: Waiting for God provides insight into 15 years' work and explores the complex imagery of Rose's performance-based practice through key examples of her video and photo works, along with a documentation archive of all her live performances.

Tracey Rose belongs to the generation of artists that have established themselves after apartheid. Taking as her point of departure this particular political and historical situation, she has developed and defined a provocative and performative visual universe, in which an array of multi-faceted characters find a place.

Tracey Rose's references to the traditions of both the theatre and the carnival lend a satirical quality to her works, often revolving around the body and the dramatic. Her characters take on and challenge the often stereotyped representations of Africans and women in general. Instead, Rose uses these stereotypes to investigate and appreciate how our common cultures, norms and views of mankind are formed. An explorative project which, among other things, takes a close look at the basic religious creation myths underlying the rise of all cultures.

Her series of images and video, *Lucie's Fur, Version 1.1.1* (2003), thus explores the origin of man in many different ways – from Lucifer to Lucy, the earliest recorded anthropoid ape. And her seminal video work *Ciao Bella* (2001), made for the Venice Biennial, serves as an interpretation of *The Last Supper*, but cast with 12 female characters. All parts are played by the artist herself, and the work constitutes a comment on the Western view of femininity. In the soap opera *The Cockpit* (2008), shot for and broadcast by national TV, she addresses intolerance, hatred and misery in a more direct manner, with the highest power in human conception – God himself – being put on trial.

Tracey Rose was born in Durban in 1974 and lives and works in Johannesburg. In 2006, she was mentioned as one of the most significant 50 African cultural personalities by the British newspaper *The Independent*. She has exhibited at some of the major international cultural institutions, such as e.g. The Venice Biennial, New Museum (New York), Centre George Pompidou (Paris), Museum of Contemporary Art Sydney and Moderna Museet (Stockholm).

Tracey Rose: Waiting for God has been curated by Khwezi Gule (Johannesburg) and Renaud Proch (New York) in co-operation with Linda Givon (Johannesburg). The exhibition has been produced by Johannesburg Art Gallery and Bildmuseet, Umeå University.

For further information, interviews or press photos, please contact Head of PR Ms Anne Riber, m: pr@nikolajkunsthaldk or t: (+45) 4089 4224.

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