



kvadrat

Kunsthal Aarhus presents: Ulla von Brandenburg

As part of European Capital of Culture Aarhus 2017 Kunsthal Aarhus presents the first solo exhibition in Denmark by acclaimed German artist Ulla von Brandenburg in collaboration with Kvadrat.

With a unique signature style that brings together film, architecture and installation, acclaimed German artist Ulla von Brandenburg's works explore the relationships between people and the different levels of collective consciousness. This exhibition at Kunsthal Aarhus takes its title from her latest work *It Has a Golden Sun and an Elderly Grey Moon* (2016) – a commission supported by Kvadrat and reconfigured for European Capital for Culture Aarhus 2017.

Von Brandenburg's works, characterised by their use of curtains, costumes, props and staged settings, draw on a range of historical references, including the tableau vivant, modern theatre, folk traditions and iconic architecture. Combined with song and movement, these elements suggest a symbolic staging of ritualised encounters that are central to her oeuvre.

At Kunsthal Aarhus, the lower gallery becomes the stage for a site-specific installation that invites the visitor to navigate through a number of objects. Spread across the gallery floor like theatre props, the diverse ceramic, wooden or textile objects display von Brandenburg's deep engagement with the traditions of craft. The central free standing wall becomes the screen for the exhibition's eponymous 16mm film *It Has a Golden Sun and an Elderly Grey Moon*. It captures a performance played out across a staircase installed on the stage of the Amandiers Theatre in Nanterre, France.

Monochromatic in its setting, the scene is punctuated by the choreographed movement of several dancers who perform in a sequence, holding variously coloured sheets of fabric in front of them. The distribution of objects and actions within the space, the ways bodies move and act recall to memory ancient rituals and gestures anchored deeply in the collective consciousness. Becoming staged rites and rituals related to gift-giving, the performed notions of exchange also reveal the aesthetic in human interactions.

The presented themes around colour, ritual, movement and textile draw us into the artist's universe of constructed narratives, both real and imagined. We enter a world where reality and illusion, past and present, installation and performance overlap and intermingle.

The exhibition is realised in collaboration with European Capital of Culture Aarhus 2017 and is supported by Beckett-Fonden, Kvadrat, Kulturgesellschaft in Aarhus and Goethe-Institut Dänemark.

Ulla von Brandenburg: *It Has a Golden Sun and an Elderly Grey Moon, Part I & II*

10 November 2017 – 25 February 2018

Kunsthal Aarhus

J.M. Mørks Gade 13

8000 Aarhus C

Exhibition opening:

10 November, 5 – 7 pm

Performances:

10 November, 5 – 7 and 11 November, 12 am–5 pm

Double opening with Belgian artist Berlinde De Bruyckere's exhibition *Embalmed*.

About Ulla von Brandenburg

Ulla von Brandenburg (b. 1974) lives and works in Paris and has a richly complex and multifaceted practice that is realised through a combination of black & white film, installation, performance, drawing, and painting. The vocabulary of von Brandenburg's work comes from a basis of using approaches and methods of the theatre, the stage, and rules of performance to engage with cultural or social issues from different moments in history to explore how stories, rituals, and symbols of the past have constituted our societies.

Among major solo exhibitions of her work are: *It Has a Golden Sun and an Elderly Grey Moon*, Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami (2016); *Yesterday and Today is Tomorrow is also like this*, Kasseler Kunstverein, Kassel (2015); *Ulla von Brandenburg: Wagon Wheel*, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, St. Louis (2015); *24 Filme, Kein Schnitt*, MAMCO, Geneva (2014); *Inside is not Outside*, Kunstverein Hannover, Hannover (2014); *Innen ist nicht Außen*, Secession, Vienna (2013); *Kunstpreis Finkenwerder 2013*, Kunsthaus Hamburg, Hamburg (2013); *Whose beginning is not, nor end cannot be*, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin (2008); *Passengers 1.68 Ulla von Brandenburg*, CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Art, San Francisco (2008).

About Kvadrat

Kvadrat was established in Denmark in 1968 and has deep roots in Scandinavia's design tradition. Kvadrat continuously works to expand the aesthetic, technological and artistic boundaries of the use of textiles through a long series of collaborations with some of the world's best designers, architects and artists, among others Miriam Bäckström, Raf Simons, Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec, Thomas Demand, Olafur Eliasson, Alfredo Häberli, Akira Minagawa and Peter Saville.

Art projects include; Kirstine Roepsdorff at the Danish Pavilion, 57th la Biennale di Venezia, Venice (2017), Pipilotti Rist at New Museum, New York (2016), Philippe Parreno at Tate Modern, London (2016), Joana Vasconcelos at AroS, Aarhus (2016), Goshka Macuga at Fondazione Prada, Milan (2016), Philippe Parreno at HangarBicocca, Milan (2016), Shilpa Gupta at 56th la Biennale di Venezia, Venice (2015), Günther Vogt and Olafur Eliasson, Your Glacial Expectations, Kvadrat Headquarters, Ebeltoft (2012), Thomas Demand at Städel Museum, Frankfurt (2011).

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