

Press release - November 2020

POUR NE PAS DORMIR JOCKUM NORDSTRÖM

Exhibition from 6 February to 9 May 2021

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A major figure on the Swedish art scene, Jockum Nordström has devoted over thirty years to his mischievous mix of worlds quotidian and oneiric, human and animal, abstract and naive, natural and architectural. At La Criée centre for contemporary art, he's presenting a selection of recent works: collages, drawings and cardboard sculptures.

WHEN WORLDS INTERSECT

Jockum Nordström is also an illustrator of children's books and a musician. His work is fuelled by references to popular and outsider art, jazz, Surrealism and architecture, in addition to Swedish culture and contemporary art. Out of all this emerge dreamlike fables in which different worlds and eras intermingle. The power of his work resides in the tension he sets up between simplicity of line and polyphony of subject matter.

Among his passions are architecture and a fascination with interiors and furniture going back to his childhood in the Stockholm suburbs, when the housing estates were being built. In his work architecture can be seen in both two and three dimensions. At La Criée he's showing a series of fragile geometrical sculptures, of cheap residential blocks whose slender lines contradict the saddening clunkiness of their originals.

Nordström defies and defeats pigeonholing: in his case the «supposedly badly made» is very well made – and deliberately so. He emphasises the liberating force of an expressiveness that simultaneously plays on and shakes off the shackles of convention: his forms and characters spill out of the frame, his lines can be messy or wobbly, his paint runs intentional; there are unfinished bits, crude cuts, crooked folds. Plus a sense of composition made all the more striking by its sheer zaniness.

WHEN ABSTRACTION AND NARRATIVE COME TOGETHER

Jockum Nordström's commitment to forms and colours in their primal state is matched by his interest in narrative, whether real or imaginary. Here we have a storyteller moving back and forth between worlds, between characters and scenes, in a mingling of the childlike and the sexy, the contemporary and the timeless, the figurative and the abstract.

The collages on show are in earth colours: greens, dirty yellows, greys, diluted browns and faded blues, with touches here and there of darker, more saturated tones in the same range. The drawings illustrate the dexterity of someone who has been practising since he was a child.

Whirling, singing, enchanting: delightful in their clarity and liberty, Jockum Nordström's works are imbued with his trust in simplicity and the absolute necessity of the creative act.

Jockum Nordström

born in 1963 in Stockholm, Sweden
lives and works in Stockholm, Sweden
represented by Galleri Magnus Karlsson, Stockholm, Zeno X Gallery, Anvers and David Zwirner, New York, Londres, Paris, Hong Kong
curator: Sophie Kaplan

production: La Criée centre for contemporary art

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This exhibition takes place in the La Criée cycle *Lili, the Rozell and the Marimba*, which looks into popular knowledge systems, local productions and contemporary creativity.

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