

Viborg Kunsthall
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Viborg, May 2022

PRESS RELEASE

New total installation made for Viborg Kunsthall involves both the eastwing and the surrounding outside areas.

Flower beds, a photographic installation and a soft sculpture makes the viewer reflect on their movement in public space and challenges their physical and social awareness.

The exhibition *Step back, step back please* by Signe Guttormsen (DK) and Andrea Ostermeyer (DE) deals with our experience of moving around in public space and challenges how we understand our spatial environment as more than pragmatic and rational spaces. The pandemic has given us a new perspective on public assemblies, teaching us to rethink and regulate our perception of the human body and consider it as something potentially threatening. *Step back, step back please* extends from the eastwing of Viborg Kunsthall into the outdoor public garden area.

Outside large flower beds will limit the movements by the audience in the garden and in the courtyard in front of the art center. The beds are overgrowing the ordinary and established paths in the garden, so the audience must cross them and tread down the flowers, initiating a sense of overstepping boundaries and doing something totally wrong. The flower beds become an image on the awkward, transgressive, and abnormal distance we have had to develop towards each other over the last – until now – two years of pandemic.

Inside the art center, the audience will encounter a photographic installation by Signe Guttormsen, where the viewer is invited to enter narrow, but unmanageable spaces. The walls are made of slatted blinds mounted on steel structures, illuminated by a ceiling of light fixtures. While the audience moves around in the installation, the blinds, made of photographs and other types of 'filters', turn into a dynamic image of cracks with momentary glimpses of urban and arbitrary spaces.

The soft sculpture by Andrea Ostermeyer stretches from the ceiling on first floor, over the railing and hangs free in the tall room. The large textile work drags associations to some sort of hoodie or a hanging blanket, offering a protective inner space. The neon coloured fabric is visually attractive, and the shape and softness of the work gives a sense of comfort and protection, however, the extreme brightness and the cold and synthetic surface disturbs and provokes the senses. Even if the space seems inviting, you cannot sit down or rest, but only observe it at a distance.

About the artists

Signe Guttormsen (b. 1964, Copenhagen) is a visual artist who lives and works in Copenhagen. She is educated at The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen and Rijksakademie van beeldende Kunsten in Amsterdam. Guttormsen is working with conceptual and site-specific modes of work with a focus on photography and integrated art.

Andrea Ostermeyer (b. 1961, Lübeck) lives and work in Mannheim. She is a trained visual artist, educated from Hochschule für Bildende Kunst in Braunschweig. Ostermeyer works with sculpture and installations and involves materials like silicone, soap, textile and plastic in her art works.

***Step back, step back please* open Thursday 19. May 2022 at 19.00-21.00. There will be opening speeches at 19.00 by director of Goethe-Institut Dänemark Dr. Barbara Honrath, artist Signe Guttormsen and director Bodil Johanne Monrad.**

The exhibition is on display until 11. September 2022 and is supported by The Danish Art Foundation, Obel Family Foundation, Augustinus Foundation, Beckett-Foundation, Statens Værksteder for Kunst, Dansk Tennis Foundation, Frimodt-Heineke Foundation, Goethe-Institut Dänemark, and Viborg municipality.

Opening hours: Tuesday-Friday 13-17, evening open Thursday 13-21 (free entrance 19-21), Saturday-Sunday and public holidays 11-17. Monday closed. For further information please contact director Bodil Johanne Monrad, phone +45 87873223 / mail: 3bm@viborg.dk or curator and mediator Camilla Davidsen, phone +45 87873220 / mail: cd4@viborg.dk.

**STEP BACK,
STEP BACK PLEASE**



SIGNE GUTTORMSEN

ANDREA OSTERMEYER



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20.05. - 11.09.2022



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