

Charlottenborg

PRESS RELEASE

1 September 2011

Nina Beier

North Galleries

7 October – 31 December 2011

Vernissage: 6 October, 19-22.00

Charlottenborg is proud to present the first major exhibition in the Scandinavian region by the young Danish artist Nina Beier (born 1975, based in Berlin). The exhibition consists mainly of new work, including many pieces made especially for Charlottenborg. Beier's practice features a conceptual exploration of artistic display and value, and this exhibition looks in particular at notions of exoticism and exchange.

One central piece is a large-scale triptych which consists of secondhand clothes – made from leopard-skin prints and other animal patterns – held within picture frames. A related work employs wigs – made of real human hair – that the artist has pressed behind glass. On one level these pieces appear like expressionist paintings, and can be understood as 'portraits' of individuals, groups or eras. On another level they are like commentaries on particular economies: on the systems of exchange and trade that shuttle between the developed and developing worlds; or on the circulation of art, and its relation to consumerism, fashion and obsolescence.

Other works in the exhibition involve posters, which have been a recurring feature in Beier's practice (they feature in a long-term installation by the artist in Charlottenborg's foyer, installed earlier in the year). These include a new group of poster-sculptures, made by dipping posters in glue and then hanging them to dry on everyday objects. The messages associated with the posters, and with the physical nature of the objects to which they stick, are thus literally merged. Another poster series plays on the tradition of the exhibition announcement, yet in these ready-made exhibition posters the formal message is substituted with romantic motifs such as sunsets (the works are on sale at Charlottenborg, and hence may return to the domestic sphere with which such images are associated).

A final piece in the exhibition – and one which picks up on the 'fur' motif that is found in the framed works – features a Persian rug scattered with dog hair. The hair stems from a performance that takes place at intervals over the course of the exhibition, and in which a dog owner asks their pet to 'play dead'. Beier is interested in how, in this process, the living animal can be at once itself and its own image.

Curated by Rhea Dall, Charlottenborg's curator. The exhibition is supported by The Danish Arts Council's Committee for Visual Arts. Accompanied by a publication that includes a text by Dieter Roelstraete (available from November, price 40 kr.).

Biographical information

Born in Aarhus, Denmark, in 1975, Beier is a graduate from the Royal College of Art, London, and a current recipient of a three-year working grant from the Danish Arts Council. Beier worked collaboratively with the artist Marie Lund from 2005 to 2009, and since she has focused on solo work. Beier has a forthcoming exhibition at Standard (Oslo) and in the last two years her work has been shown at Moca (Miami), Hamburger Bahnhof, KunstWerke and Neugerriemschneider (Berlin), ExtraCity (Antwerp), Castello di Rivoli (Torino), Museum of Contemporary Art (Rome), Project Arts Centre (Dublin), Swiss Institute (NYC), and Kunsthalle Zürich.

Press

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Press photos can be downloaded from: www.kunsthallcharlottenborg.dk

Opening hours

Tuesday to Sunday 11-18.00 (Wednesday 11-21.00)

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