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GALERIE ART CRU BERLIN · ORANIENBURGER STRASSE 27 · 10117 BERLIN-MITTE
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LA CAGE AUX FOLLES HUUB NIESSEN, MICHAEL RASMUSSEN

Vernissage: Thursday, 08.09.2016, 7 pm
Exhibition: 09.09. – 29.10.2016
Opening Hours: Tuesday–Saturday, 12–6 pm
Galerie ART CRU Berlin, Oranienburger Str. 27, 10117 Berlin-Mitte, Germany
Introduction: Stig Josefsen
Daily Leader, Kunstskolen Snurretoppen, Denmark
Dr. med Wolfram Voigtländer
Board of Directors, PS-Art e.V. Berlin

Galerie ART CRU Berlin is showing drawings by Dutch artist Huub Niessen and objects by Michael Rasmussen from Denmark. The unusual and heterogeneous works will be shown for the first time in Berlin.

The anachronistic subversive nature, the scurrility and the striking intractability of the works fascinated us in the visible antagonisms that the two artists share. Inside of this paradox interplay, an irony is evolving. Unexpected meeting points are arising.

Huub Niessen (b. 1943) lives and works in Helmond, NL. Drawing has been a constant companion to the artist throughout his life. He studied languages in Nijmegen and worked as a journalist. Later he experienced a series of heavy depression spells that forced him to quit his job. It was in these situations that his artistic practice became especially intense. In his images Niessen creates a world that follows its own laws. They are narrative scenes, elegant and wryly-humoresque at the same time, with titles like „Ambition“, „Biological Mother“ or „Who am I“ and full of the artist's feelings and thoughts, which are sometimes hard to express in words. He usually works with black ink and a minimal color palette on drawing paper and carefully composes picture stories and strange situations, which are reminiscent of book illustrations. Niessen has found his own language: in a highly characteristic style he creates his own figures, which always have something fable-like to them. Many of his figures are placed on backgrounds, or are equipped with speech balloons, filled with never-ending surfaces of handwritten text. Their typeface however remains (mostly) unreadable. The viewer is invited to decipher the metaphorical meanings of the artists' bizarre images.

Many of his works are part of collections like the Guislain Museum, Belgium, the Musee de la Creation Franche, France, and Sammlung Demirel, Germany.

Michael Rasmussen creates objects out of wire, (scrap) objects and yarn. His works oscillate between minimal sculptures that look like abstract monochrome design objects and detailed appliances, animals or anthropomorphic figures.

Starting point for Rasmussen's work was his deep fascination for houses, which he likes to use in every thinkable way. The Snurretoppen art school for artist with disabilities,

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which Michael has joined in its founding year 2005, is and was the ideal place to work with this idea of the „house“. The sculptures became more and more elaborate and have been further developed to highly headstrong three-dimensional objects.

The exhibition shows highlights from Rasmussens‘ spectrum like the organically sweeping “Man with cap, lamp,” a reduced sculpture, which accomplishes the functionality of a lamp and is at the same time an artistic depiction of a man with a cap. Or “Poor Swan you’re being boiled,” a swan, which is composed out of the stretched yarn-surfaces, typical for the artist, and carries a cooking pot in its abdomen. The works of Michael Rasmussen are of a fascinating imaginative perception with subtlety and humor turned into objects.

Galerie ART CRU Berlin is Berlin’s only gallery for so-called Outsider Art since 2008. The term (introduced in 1945 by painter Jean Dubuffet as “Art Brut”) refers to art by people with psychiatric disorders or mental disabilities. We are convinced that the particular perceptions these artists have allow them to create art of high authenticity. With our exhibitions we present works by “outsiders” as a crucial part of contemporary art and aim to foster discourse within the established art world. Being located at the Kunsthof on Oranienburger Straße, the gallery presents works by people with disabilities right in the centre of Berlin’s art scene. Galerie ART CRU Berlin is backed by the non-profit federation PS-Art e.V. Berlin – a network of different institutions.

For its five-year jubilee the gallery published a chronicle comprising all exhibition catalogues from 2008-13. In 2014 we took part at the *Outsider Art Fair* in *Paris*, the world’s leading fair in this field. The same year saw the nomination of five artists from the network of PS-Art e.V. Berlin for the international art prize *Euward*.

For further information and images please contact us:

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Huub Niessen, Biological Mother,
2013-2016, ink and water color on paper, 17x21



Michael Rasmussen, Man with cap. Lamp
2015, wire, yarn, 60x40x60



Michael Rasmussen, Poor Swane you are being boiled
2012, scrap objects, yarn, 50x40x60



Huub Niessen, People are like birds, birds are like people,
2013-2016, ink and water color on paper, 18x21

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