

MONUMENTS OF DOUBTS

A SOLO SHOW BY KNUT HENRIK HENRIKSEN

Private View: Saturday 6 September 6 – 8.30 PM

Exhibition: 7 September – 5 October

Gallery open Thursday - Sunday

12 - 6 pm, or by appointment

Knut Henrik Henriksen has developed a practice that employs a set of rules and restrictions as a means to investigate the potential of sculptural language. The formal aspects of the work emerge from measurements that come either from architectural specifications or pre-exist in mass-produced materials and formats. There is, it could be argued, a sort of latent democracy to this approach – the artist's hand is curiously held at bay as the shapes emerge from a template, that once drawn offer endless possibilities – the construction of which is often in the hands of a third party producer.

For his second solo show at Hollybush Gardens, Knut Henrik Henriksen will present a new constellation of white-painted steel sculptures entitled Monuments of Doubts. These sculptures have been given their form through an intervention into the ISO standard size system, the universal system governing paper sizing (except in the USA and Canada). On a single sheet of A4 Henriksen has drawn up some lines that can exist between points determined by the ISO's ratio. Akin to the activity of paper folding and the logic of trigonometry that gave rise to the invention of ISO in the first place, Henriksen traces invisible lines – curves, diagonals and verticals — that provide infinite variables for the making of three dimensional objects.

It is however not only the formal aspect of this system that occupies Henriksen but also the historical circumstance that lead to its formulation. There are two significant protagonists that make up this history - Georg Lichtenberg whom, in 1786 first proposed what was to become the German DIN standard, and Dr Walter Porstmann who turned Lichtenberg's idea into a proper system of different paper sizes (introduced as a DIN standard in Germany in 1922). This replaced a vast variety of other paper formats. By 1977 A4 was the standard letter format in 88 of 148 countries.

The universality of the ISO standard size system is reflected in the way that Henriksen has chosen to display the sculptures. Instead of plinths, the sculptures are perched on the packing cases out of which they appeared. One gets a sense that Monuments of Doubts were never to settle, eluding not only to the transitory nature of their display, and their brief respite in the gallery space, but also the quasi-fragile appearance of the sculptures themselves. Perhaps also at play is an unwillingness to lay claim to the epic status of the monument.

Henriksen continually plays with an idea of doubt. This could mean drawing attention to a particular architectural oddity or questioning a standard format. In Monuments of Doubts this can perhaps be found in the association between the two scientists, the logic of the ISO system and the beauty of the shapes that Henriksen has taken from this format, that suggest a universe far removed from the logical world of paper formatting.

Knut Henrik Henriksen works and lives in Berlin. Forthcoming exhibitions include; A juxtaposition between KH Henriksen and Hans Arp at Galleri Würth, Oslo, November, a group show at Nordenhake in Stockholm, November and a solo show at Sommer & Kohl 2009. Public commissions include Ahus, New University Hospital in Akershus, Norway, September 2008 and Høgskolen in Vestfold, Norway 2009. Previous exhibitions include The Re-conquest of Space, Overgaden, Copenhagen, July 2007, Poor Thing, Kunst-halle Basel, June 2007, Various Small Fires, Royal College of Art, London, March 2007 and All that is Solid Melts into Air, Frac des Pays de la Loire, Nantes, 2006.

For further information contact Lisa Panting/Malin Ståhl

Hollybush Gardens

Unit 2, BJ House

10 - 14 Hollybush Gardens

London E2 9QP

Te: +44 207 729 9651

office@hollybushgardens.co.uk

www.hollybushgardens.co.uk