

STEINAR HAGA KRISTENSEN

The spread of dilettantism

Opening: November 21st, 5-8 pm

Exhibition period ends: December 21st

Gallery opening hours: Wednesday-Friday 12-5.30 pm, Saturday 12-4 pm

The spread of dilettantism is Steinar Haga Kristensen's first solo-exhibition in Sweden and the second one in a series of installations forming an 'upholstered' labyrinthine pavilion of large-scale wall carpets referencing earlier works by the artist. The first exhibition took place at Etablissement d'en face projects in Brussels, March 2013.

Haga Kristensen's installations and montages contain diverse artistic gestures, ranging from event-scores, sculpture, reliefs, and painting to video, performance and telepathic interventions. In the current show, wall carpets act as backdrops for a series of mannerist sculptural repetitions and form life-size interior scenes, staging a satirical collaboration between consumerist over-production and the dark forces of the id.

A video installation plays a central part in the exhibition, reflecting the artist's histrionic enactment of creation and reception, suggesting a preclusion of the real audience or spectator by idealizing their involvement with the objects on display through an opaque and disorienting narrative.

In this, Haga Kristensen seeks to unveil the positive lingual potentialities inherent in an exuberant modernity. By perverting contemporary superfluity and redundancy, on a poetic and satiric quest to localize today's heroic embodiments.

Steinar Haga Kristensen (b.1980) lives and works in Oslo. He is educated at the National Academy of Art, Oslo, Akademie der bildenden Künste, Wien and Sydney College of Art. Haga Kristensen has been engaged in artistic production at Etablissement d'en face projects, Brussels, Belgium; WIELS Contemporary art centre, Brussels, Belgium; Kunsthall Oslo, Norway; Gallery Rod Bianco, Oslo, Norway; Witte de With, Rotterdam, the Netherlands; Museum of Contemporary Art, Roskilde, Denmark; UKS, Oslo, Norway; Kunsthall Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, Denmark; and Bergen Kunsthall Landmark, Bergen, Norway. Kristensen is also one of the founding members of the artist group D.O.R and he currently holds one of the Oslo Municipality Town Hall Residency Studios.

Johan Berggren Gallery
Östra Tullgatan 6, Malmö, Sweden
www.johanberggren.com