

PROJE4L



PRESS RELEASE

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STOP FOR A MOMENT – PAINTING AS NARRATIVE

5 April – 15 June 2002

in Proje4L – Istanbul Museum of Contemporary Art, Turkey

Stop for a Moment – Painting as Narrative, taking place in Proje4L – Istanbul Museum of Contemporary Art, consists of figurative works where the emphasis is on the capacity of painting to act as a story – hence, painting as narrative. The works investigate the various ways of making particular, private experiences accessible and public. The position of painting in Turkey is quite similar to the one in the Nordic countries. In these relative peripheries the popularity of painting is very high. Rather than emphasising the conservative attitudes relating to its situation as a market commodity or fetisch, the exhibition puts forward an attitude that is critical and self-conscious. The first exhibition in Gävle Konstcentrum, Sweden, examined issues such as slowness, 'painting's place' and painting as a place. The last exhibition in the series will be shown at the Wäinö Aaltonen Museum of Art in Turku, Finland, in autumn 2002, and also in the Arken Museum of Contemporary Art in Denmark, from November 2002 onwards.

The artists featured in *Stop for a Moment – Painting as Narrative*:

Vanessa Baird (NO)

Birgir S. Birgisson (IS)

Niklas Engvall (SE)

Robert Lucander (FI)

Elina Merenmies (FI)

Milla Toivanen (FI)

Lene Væring Jensen (NO)

Vanessa Baird's (1963) contribution consists of oil paintings, pastels and watercolours. Baird's works, reminiscent of the tradition of British illustrated children's books, reflect both her own experiences as a woman and a mother, as well as more general topics, such as Norwegian folklore and different stereotypes connected to her native country. Baird manages to put forward a bitter-sweet image of realities surrounding us in a way that is uniquely hers. **Birgir S. Birgisson** (1966) has, for several years, worked consistently with a series named *Blond Nurses*. Whereas Baird's hospital scenes are violently explicit, Birgisson uses a more silent

approach. His works, which are based on old photographs, are airy, quiet paintings. Their almost invisible quality succeeds in raising disturbing questions about power and control, as well as issues connected to healing and human interaction. **Niklas Engvall** (1969) is also a fervent critic of Nordic welfare society. Engvall's Sweden – a model country of Western freedom – looks more like a twisted Twin Peaks, where so-called civil liberties cannot be taken for granted. **Robert Lucander's** (1962) works contain traces of authentic reality. While Engvall's sources may be the cold parking lots, Lucander is more at home in the pages of the yellow press. His works depict the heroes of modern society – pop stars, celebrities and beauty queens – in a way that is not necessarily flattering. Lucander's warmly ironic approach gives the viewer new insights to apparently familiar situations. **Elina Merenmies** (1967) puts forward a rare viewpoint – that of the victim. Her disturbing images of a world, full of uncanny creatures, address the issues of suffering and lack of compassion. Despite, or just because of their style, the works succeed in bringing about the idea of hope. **Milla Toivanen's** (1972) contribution consists of a series of small-scale paintings. Toivanen's works are fragmented narratives that portray her life and surroundings. They are strange stories without a clear beginning or end. **Lene Væring Jensen** (1973) also has her own life as a starting point. She questions and investigates the role of the artist in the contemporary situation. Jensen's cut-outs act as questions about the myths connected to the artist's position and possibilities.

The exhibition is initiated and produced by NIFCA in collaboration with Proje4L.

The exhibition is curated by Kari Immonen and Mika Hannula.

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www.nifca.org/stopforamoment

Stop for a Moment – Painting as Narrative will be accompanied by a 64 page full-color catalogue with an introductory essay, artists' interviews and illustrations.

The texts can also be read at www.nifca.org/stopforamoment

Other exhibitions in the series:

Stop for a Moment – Painting as a Place to Be

Gävle Konstcentrum, Gävle, Sweden, 2 March - 7 April, 2002

Cecilia Aaro, Ulf Verner Carlsson, Dag Erik Elgin,

Andreas Eriksson, Maria Hall, Kristoffer Nilson,

Rickard Sollman and Marianna Uutinen

www.gavle.se/konstcentrum

Stop for a Moment – Painting as Presence

6 September – 27 October 2002 in

Wäinö Aaltonen Museum of Art, Turku, Finland
Marcus Eek, Anna Fro Vodder, Jukka Korkeila,
John Kørner, Elina Merenmies, Tiina Elina
Nurminen and Tal R

www.wam.fi