

OVERGADEN.

Press release June 2013

Jette Hye Jin Mortensen: *The Apology*

Christianshavn – Art in the Neighbourhood

22 June – 18 August 2013

Opening: Friday 21 June 2013, 5-8pm

Jette Hye Jin Mortensen: *The Apology*

With scientific evidence in one hand, and the immediacy of feeling in the other, Jette Hye Jin Mortensen transforms Overgaden into a healing space that explores the distance between shared cultural traumas and personal, existential issues.

In 2010, Prime Minister Gordon Brown gave an official apology for a previously suppressed part of British colonial history: the forced emigration of children. Over several centuries a large number of children from poor English families were sent to British colonies to perform hard labour, without ever seeing their families again. In Jette Hye Jin Mortensen's first major solo exhibition, the current, international adoption system is linked to the collective, cultural trauma of the historical deportation of children during the colonial era. Here the public apology is central, as a transformative and releasing catalyst of the healing and negotiation process.

In a sensuous exhibition of video, sound and installation, where the body of the artist is present down to the level of DNA and cells, a healing room is created – a meditative platform where history, science, the body and emotions intersect. Jette Hye Jin Mortensen inserts her own body and history into the equation, starting a process of transformation at the micro level – a process that through the effects of specific metals, meditations, colours and sound frequencies slowly spreads into the world - to maybe generate change there too.

The exhibition is designed as a ritual sequence, where the passage between bodily states and historical and mental states are experienced and merge. The viewer meets a cacophonous media archive of voices from the past and the present, Gordon Brown's official apology, elements of the artist's personal history, as well as installations that draw on quantum mechanics, chemical elements, brain research and the energy of colours. The exhibition culminates in a healing room, where the bodies of both the artist and the audience become the primary receptors of electro-acoustic sound waves and colour frequencies.

Jette Hye Jin Mortensen's art is often based on identity as an extended, existential category in a broader psychological and sociological context. She is interested in creating new negotiations and new spaces for negotiation – like theatre stages, therapeutic spaces and prayer/meditation rooms. In *The Apology* at Overgaden, Jette Hye Jin Mortensen draws on her earlier artistic investigations, gathering them in a total installation that questions the links between inheritance and environment, and strives to understand our eternal quest to find our true origins. The exhibition locates itself at the intersection of the sensory and the theoretical, and navigates between collective and personal history.

Christianshavn – Art in the Neighbourhood

During the summer, Christianshavn will be taken over by art projects created by 24 students from Denmark's three art academies. Overgaden has invited the students to leave their mark on the neighbourhood - and in its own exhibition halls.

What does Christianshavn look like from the perspective of a young artist? And how could the area's diversity and cultural and political situation unfold artistically?

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In collaboration with The Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Funen Art Academy and Jutland Art Academy, Overgaden has given 24 students from the three academies free rein to investigate the neighbourhood around Overgaden and relate to the stories, people, issues and distinctive character of the area.

Christianshavn is one of Copenhagen's most diverse neighbourhoods, and has a long and eventful history that has influenced its development - from Christiania to the old B&W shipyard to the creative schools now gathered at Holmen.

How this diversity can be translated into and inspire contemporary art will be made visible inside and outside during the summer, when the students' research turns into a series of events, mini exhibitions, dialogues, and much more on the streets of Christianshavn, in local institutions, and on the first floor of Overgaden. You can experience sound installations, projections in the canal, a protest concert, a market day, an installation of hair gathered from local hair salons – and much more.

See more about the project at the students' webpage: www.kunstikvarteret.dk

The participating students from the three art academies are:

Iben Lilleriis Andersen, Alen Aligrudic, Julie Riis Andersen, Kamilla Askholm, Stefan Bakmand, Amalie Brandt, Mette Clausen, Anne Nora Fisher, Nat Bloch Gregersen, Marija Griniuk, Miriam Haille, Selini Halvadaki, Martha Hviid, Katti Pärkson-Kull, Emil Linnet, Jonna Ljósá, Sune Lysdal, Jon Erik Nyholm, Lil Wachmann, Anna Walther, Ida Retz Wessberg, Lilia Zarjetsky, Tinne Zenner and Anna Ørberg.

For more information about the individual projects and the full event programme check Overgaden's homepage www.overgaden.org or contact Press Officer Anne Riber at ar@overgaden.org or on +45 32 57 72 73. Press photographs can be downloaded from the press page on our website.

Overgaden is Copenhagen's innovative exhibition venue for Danish and international contemporary art. With varying exhibitions and events, including artist talks, lectures, performances and film screenings, Overgaden acts as a platform for the latest developments on the art scene, and as a forum for discussion and debate.

Overgaden.

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Tuesday-sunday 1-5pm, thursday 1-8pm.
Free admission

