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Mathias & Mathias: *Kære*

27 January – 18 March 2018

Opening: Friday 26 January, 5-8 pm

In their largest solo exhibition to date the artist duo Mathias & Mathias investigate the relationship between art and the law.

The artist duo Mathias & Mathias, comprised of Mathias Toubro and Mathias Dyhr, are known for their scenographic installations using theatrical props and effects to create situations where the relationship between life and art is in focus. In a newly produced total installation the duo addresses the relationship between art and the law. What happens when the rationality of law encounters the emotional subjectivity of art? And why and when is objective reason overruled by passion and feelings?

These are questions the art duo addresses through sculpture, scenography and films portraying actual and fictional cases where art has been taken to court.

Visitors are greeted by a construction of wood panels and windows that form a façade through which the rooms of the exhibition can be viewed. To step inside is to enter a courtroom-like space that is occupied by a landscape of furniture covered in information: text, drawings, images, and other evidence referring to aesthetic judgements. In this setting the artists screen two films, which are based on the human element in court cases, enacted here as intimate theatre played out between a cast of figures.

One of the films is based on the trial of the artist J.S.G. Boggs, who was accused of counterfeiting banknotes as part of his art practise. The film does not, however, deal with the entire trial, focusing instead on the dynamics between members of the jury. In doing so the film explores the process of achieving consensus in the trial of aesthetics.

Taking the identikit drawing as its starting point, the second film in the exhibition deals with issues of witnessing and truth, and the process of recalling something only experienced briefly.

As a contrast to the dispassionate, fact-packed 'courtroom', the artist duo has created another, more theatrically charged 'deposition room' – used for the interrogation of trial witnesses. In the context established by Mathias & Mathias, this takes the form of a stage set balancing between a factual and fictional universe. The room is occupied by a series of wooden sculptures evoking classical theatre traditions like the chorus of Greek comedy, the archetypes of Commedia dell'arte, and religious lamentation.

With the exhibition *Kære* Mathias & Mathias address terms for art that are rarely granted exhibition space, subtly revealing the legalities of art and the aesthetics of judgement.

The artist duo **Mathias & Mathias** has worked together since 2012 when they met at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts from where they graduated in 2016. The duo has exhibited in Denmark and abroad, including at Ringsted Galleriet, the exhibition space Q, Last Resort Gallery, Sculpture by the Sea, Skulptur Odense, Tranen Contemporary Art Centre, and MUNAL Museo Nacional de Art, Mexico City.

Contact: For more information about the exhibition contact Anne Riber at ar@overgaden.org or on +45 32 57 72 73. Press images can be downloaded

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