

# OVERGADEN.

Press release October 2018

## REVISIT: Hanne Nielsen & Birgit Johnsen

November 10th 2018 - January 6th 2019

Opening: Friday November 9th, 5-8 pm

*Overgaden's REVISIT exhibition series culminates with a major presentation of works by the artists Hanne Nielsen and Birgit Johnsen. The exhibition extends over both floors of Overgaden, offering a broad survey of the artist duo's uncompromising and long-standing investigation of the medium of video.*

In 2013 Overgaden launched the exhibition format REVISIT focusing on the back catalogue of the art institute itself. Since then, an annual exhibition has revisited an epochal exhibition held in the past from a contemporary perspective to explore some of the many new departures in art Overgaden has hosted over the years. This year the series draws to a close with an extensive presentation of the work of two of Denmark's leading pioneers in video art – the artist duo Hanne Nielsen and Birgit Johnsen.

The starting point of REVISIT is the 2002 video installation *Territoriale Udsagn* (Territorial Statements), a work that made a major impact when it was made due to its experimental use of video. In the work, six women describe an episode in their lives where they felt their boundaries were challenged or transgressed, an episode they recount four separate times over several days. During the course of the work small changes in the women's tone, choice of words and thoughts are registered, just as the lighting, camera angle and framing change from session to session. Through these shifts at a narrative and formal level, *Territorial Statements* investigates different narrative strategies relating to our expectations of the medium and not least its relationship to reality – elements that run like a red thread throughout the artists' oeuvre.

REVISIT provides insight into the artists' constant development and use of video with a specific focus on their investigation of the medium's formal effects and narrative possibilities. The exhibition is divided into four sections focusing on the use of genre and formal approaches in an art practice characterised by the intersection of fact, documentation and fiction. Each section of the exhibition includes a selection of older and newer works, approaching the question of authenticity and veracity from a range of angles. The artists' works explore issues and conflicts that connect feminism and the personal with major political themes. For REVISIT they have created *Modern Escape*, a new video work unfolding at the intersection of a constant media news stream and the private sphere that places the viewer at the heart of the narrative.

REVISIT draws a connecting thread throughout Hanne Nielsen and Birgit Johnsen's long-standing work with the medium of video, identifying continuities and developments in the artists' practice in dialogue with new technological possibilities and the transformation of visual culture.

The exhibition is curated by Anna Holm.

### About the artists:

Birgit Johnsen (b.1958) and Hanne Nielsen (b.1959) graduated from the Jutland Art Academy in 1991 and 1990 respectively. They have collaborated on video works, documentary works and installations since 1993, and exhibited widely as a duo in both Denmark and abroad. Their more recent solo exhibitions include *Drifting*, Sørlandets Kunstmuseum (NO), *Protect/Release*, Røda Sten Kunsthall (SE), and *Inclusion/Exclusion*, ARoS Aarhus Art Museum (DK). In 2016 the duo received the Carl Nielsen and Anne Marie Carl-Nielsen Award, Denmark's most substantial honorary grant for artists, and in 2017 the prestigious Eckersberg Medal.

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