

OVERGADEN.

Press release March 2019

Khaled Kaddal: To the Nostrils of Time

06.04.19 – 26.05.19

Exhibition opening: Friday 04.05.19, 17.00-20.00

Egyptian artist Khaled Kaddal creates a brand-new total installation for the upper galleries at Overgaden where a soundtrack, golden emergency blankets and more than a ton of fresh earth all play central roles.

Khaled Kaddal (b. 1987) is part of a young generation of Egyptians who in 2011 used the instant communication platforms available on social media to mobilise and give a voice to the youth who had been unrepresented in the nation's public debates for too long. They were among those who sowed the seeds of the Egyptian revolution – a landmark event that has had both a direct and indirect impact on Kaddal's practice as an artist.

Kaddal's background is in the music and sound scene of Alexandria, and he also made his entry into the world of contemporary art via the universe of sound. His work traverses art disciplines, integrating sound and moving images in surprising and sensory installations. His work often has a socio-political focus, with a conceptual and aesthetic approach that emphasises the sensory memory of the body and its capacity to evoke positive memories and traumas alike via senses like smell and sound.

At Overgaden he incorporates these sensory approaches in a total installation combining sounds, smells, and a bed of earth. Central to the exhibition is a sculptural element comprised of fragmented mirrored discs that evoke the Egyptian god Nefertem and his lotus blossom headdress. The fragrance of the flower is held to have a healing, calming effect. Like the water lily, the lotus opens early in the morning to reveal its luminous stamens. Kaddal has extended the golden heart of the flower onto the walls of the exhibition space, using the reflective surface of thermal emergency blankets in a multi-layered gesture with disturbing, aesthetic and mythical associations.

In opposition to the current acceleration of linear time and its inexorable logic of past, present and future, in his exhibition at Overgaden Kaddal strives to create a meditative realm open to alternative understandings of time that offers visitors a quiet space for contemplation. Through references to ancient Egyptian concepts of time as cyclical and transcendental, as well as events in present-day Egypt, Kaddal aims to create balance and heal the rift between the contemporary individual as a thinking and acting being and our more deeply rooted sensory self.

Khaled Kaddal (b. 1987) has exhibited and performed widely internationally, including at Rooms Gallery [UK], Dilston Grove Gallery [UK], Nour Festival [UK], Spektrum [DE], Generate Festival [DE], Palazzo Mora, Venice Biennale [IT], AltoFest [IT], Townhouse Gallery [EG], and D-CAF Festival [EG].

For more information or press photographs please contact Head of Press Anne Riber at ar@overgaden.org or on +45 40 89 42 24.

Overgaden.

Institut for Samtidskunst
Overgaden Neden Vandet 17
1414 København K

Mail: info@overgaden.org
Web: www.overgaden.org
Tel. +45 3257-7273

STATENS KUNSTFOND

