

OVERGADEN

Johannes Sivertsen: The Unnamed
12 September – 8 November 2020

Featuring Nawel Louerrad (AL) and Fella Tamzali Tahari (AL)

Reopening of Overgaden on 11 September from 12–20

At his first major solo exhibition, the Danish–French artist Johannes Sivertsen listens, through his paintings, to those who, historically, were not heard.

Generally speaking, Western history of painting recalls the white man's narrative and point of view. With his exhibition, The Unnamed, on the top floor of the refurbished Overgaden, Johannes Sivertsen presents a new perspective in his painting, inviting a group, largely overlooked until now, to enter the art-historical scene and have their say.

Having grown up in the suburbs of Paris, the artist has first-hand experience of the aftermath of French colonialism and for the exhibition at Overgaden, he directs focus at a pained and overlooked part of French history, the reverberations of which are also evident in a Danish context.

The Unnamed presents a number of paintings dedicated to women from Algerian history – from colonial times until the present. Sivertsen has worked to create a different representation than the one which, for centuries, has emerged from the classical European and, more specifically, French tradition of male painters who have portrayed and defined landmark events in Europe. By applying many of the codes and compositions prevalent in nineteenth-century European painting and upending Romanticism and orientalism, the artist questions how one imagines this 'other', directing focus at the way men has portrayed women up through history.

In 2019, Sivertsen came into contact with the Algerian writer and activist Wassyla Tamzali and a collaboration emerged where Tamzali critiqued and challenged Sivertsen's mode of expression and content. As a result, Sivertsen has invited Tamzali to curate two young Algerian female contemporary artists as part of the exhibition at Overgaden. Works by the two artists, Nawel Louerrad and Fella Tamzali Tahari, will be shown next to Sivertsen's paintings.

With The Unnamed, Johannes Sivertsen examines the prevailing idea of the white, Western man's objective view, questioning common visual modes of expression where dominance is partly inherited and partly deeply rooted in painterly practices and art history. The exhibition is not an attempt at undertaking an impossible atonement, but rather a bid to jointly creating a platform from which to develop a new painterly mode of expression.

Johannes Sivertsen (b.1984 in Paris) was educated at the Ateliers Beaux-Arts de La Glacière, Paris, (2008) and at the Funen Art Academy (2014). Recent exhibition venues include the I:Project Space, Beijing, the JCE Biennale, Montrouge, and Ringsted Galleriet. Also, Sivertsen is part of the exhibition venue OK Corral.

For further information, interviews, and press photos, please contact Anne Riber, press and sponsorships, by mail: ar@overgaden.org or phone: +45 40 89 42 24