

OVERGADEN

Torben Ribe: OUTLET

11 September – 8 November 2020

Preview and reopening of Overgaden on 11 September from 12–20

Overgaden's newly refurbished gallery space provides the setting for the Danish artist Torben Ribe's new total installation where well-known elements from the familiar corner with sofa sets are juxtaposed with abstract paintings and decorative cushions displaying family pictures.

Overgaden's fully refurbished ground floor has been transformed into a painterly and sculptural version of a furniture outlet passed through the filter of Torben Ribe's aesthetic and astute sensuous talent for balancing the relationship of everyday scenarios and objects with abstract painting.

Everyday challenges are, somewhat ungainly, thrust into an art-historical context, miming familiar consumer goods from the home, namely the ubiquitous flat-screen TV and the sofa set. These two inseparable companions have, for decades, served in the private sphere as a space for relaxation, comfort, and experiences, but also as a status symbol and marker of social position. Not unlike the role of visual art and, in particular, the most commercial medium of all: painting.

However, homely is hardly how one would describe Torben Ribe's version of the universal relaxation corner – quite the contrary, in fact; the familiar composition of TV 'shrine' and footstool has been upended. In Ribe's installation, a series of paintings have been placed unevenly in the gallery space – some even on TV stands – while the decked-out sofas appear as products, merchandise, in some indefinable insipid temporary outlet. With their plinths, geometric shapes, coloured planes, and minimalist compositions, the sofas become underplayed formal sculptures of sorts and thus lifestyle objects and commercial warehouse displays go hand in hand with an apparently stringent painterly mode of expression.

In this fairly chaotic furniture store, abundant quantities of floating shelves have been installed throughout the gallery space as a kind of unifying architectural feature or as empty dashes waiting to be filled. Some of the shelves are in use, but most are left unused like furniture in a half-empty shop struggling to procure enough goods.

'The paintings [are] a theatre of the realities of ordinary life, slowly but surely breaking through the non-figurative skin like a cancerous tumour or slow water damage, oozing day and night, without one being able to do anything about it,' says Torben Ribe about the installation.

Torben Ribe's OUTLET addresses a familiar and intimate situation as a collective artistic composition, not made up of gestural brushstrokes or painted geometric shapes on a rectangular canvas, but rather of decorative cushions, photo collages printed on bed covers and even small-scale paintings, all of them posing as walk-ons in this abstraction of a furniture-store still life.

Torben Ribe (b.1978) graduated from the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in 2006. He has shown at home and abroad, including several solo and group exhibitions, for example, *Pizza is God* at the NRW-Forum, Düsseldorf, *Cool, Calm and Collected* at AROS Aarhus Art Museum, Aarhus, *Lean Issues* at the Kyoto Art Center, Kyoto, *Indoor Paintings* at the David Risley Gallery, Copenhagen, *Neighbours* at CAR DRDE, Bologna, and *Landscapes and Fruit* at Galerie Hussenot, Paris. Recently, Ribe showed at the Ringsted Galleriet, Ringsted, with Maiken Bent. Torben Ribe lives and works in Vordingborg.

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