

GALERIE MARIA LUND

PETER MARTENSEN
UNDONE SKETCHES

painting - drawing

17. 06. - 23. 07. 2016

OPENING : Friday June 17th from 6pm to 9pm in presence of Peter Martensen.

Intentions, ideas, notes, projects, plans, diaries, memoirs, registers, archives or simple sheets of paper... Our life, our thoughts, our dreams often exist in writing - and sometimes only exist as written traces... Drawers and other containers are filled with them. To this we can add the attempts, the aborted projects, the impossibilities... The confrontation with a reality that does not want to emerge or that collides with the eternal lack of time. Not to mention documents with such sensitive material that they live in the shadows... until the day when...

The artist Peter Martensen handles all these notebooks, diaries and loose paper sheets - including his own - in a very concrete manner: he started painting and drawing them transforming them into landscapes, endless accumulations. In these compositions, Mankind is sometimes shown on the scale of books and notebooks; he is sometimes as big as a giant or as small as a Lilliputian. Ideas accumulate, get forgotten, just as ignored words of wisdom, trampled projects and truths too truthful, but the notebooks remain...

specialists

Specialists (men in white gowns) that have populated Martensen's works for some time now, are more present than ever: picking up loose paper sheets, wandering about in the water, if they are not roaming the landscape heavily armed. In *The Crystal ball party*, men in black costumes and white shirts, most of them carrying a crystal ball, are gathered in a sea of foam where shrubs from a baroque garden appear here and there. Three minuscule women in white gowns are watching the scene while two men, with backpacks, are diagonally crossing in opposite directions. *Quo vadis?* Will the crystal balls bring any answers? Their carriers hold them like any ordinary accessory.

pause

And suddenly time stops; a woman's head, from the 21st century or the 19th, seen in profile is shown partly in the shade, her face lit by a strong light - insects dancing around it. Her closed eyes exude calm and concentration: the being and its interiority.

navigation

Subtle shifts, the implausible and the unreal are Peter Martensen's tools, as is the exploitation of the matter's specific abilities.

With *Undone Sketches*, the artist takes on a new subject matter while still remaining true to his sweet transgression in which humor, poetry and pathos feed the questioning and the unveiling of anchored conventions and visions. His quirky and highly relevant work moves because of its non-demonstrative acuity: welcome aboard Martensen's big boat, which infinite itinerary navigates between places we think we know and dangerous horizons where clear-sightedness and misadventure are looking out for the traveler. *Fasten your seatbelts!*

background

Peter Martensen (born in Denmark in 1953) regularly exhibits in institutions and galleries in his homeland as well as in Europe and the United States. Recently his work was presented in South Korea and Japan.

The Galerie Maria Lund has presented seven solo exhibitions of the artist : *CLONE CLUB PAINTINGS* (2000), *CIVILISATION* (2002), *STRANGE DAYS* (2004), *THE TEST* (2007), *TESTING FREEDOM* (2008 - in the context of the *Month of photography*) and *MUSEUM* (2011) and *FEELINGS* (2013). The Musée d'art moderne et contemporain de Saint Etienne Métropole showed his drawings this spring in the context of the exhibition *Intriguing Uncertainties (Intrigantes Incertitudes)*.

In 2010, Peter Martensen was one of the eight Nordic artists featured in the exhibition *Shades of black, a founding event of Passionism - a movement identified by the young Danish art historian Merete Sanderhoff* - and welcomed by the *Ordrupgaard* and *Vejle* museums in Denmark. Before that, in 2006, a retrospective exhibition of Peter Martensen's work was organized by the institutions *Sophienholm* and *Vejle Kunstmuseum* (Denmark). In 2014 the museum *Brandts* in Odense (Denmark) presented *From Grid to Romance*, a show that brought paintings, drawings and videos from the artist's 1990-2014 period together.

Appreciated by a growing audience, Peter Martensen's work is featured in a number of collections: *Museum for Kunst* (Copenhagen), *V&A* (London), *Statens Kunsthalle Rostock*, *Centre Culturel de Hainaut*, *FRAC Haute-Normandie*. The artist is also solicited for public and private commissions (portraits, sculptures and monumental paintings).

Painting and drawing are at the center of Peter Martensen's artistic practice; he regularly creates etchings and lithographic prints, and has also made several videos (*Loop*, 2002 ; *Prélude*, 2006 and *The Test*, 2008) and an increasing numbers of bronze sculptures. In 2001, the book *Øksens tid* (the era of the ax) was published by Gyldendal editions (Denmark) - a collection of drawings and short stories that resulted from the collaboration between Danish writer Preben Major Sørensen and Peter Martensen. Performance and music also play an important part in the artist's universe...

For further information or visuals, please contact: Maria Lund, Sini Rinne-Kanto or Clémence Rouzaud

GALERIE MARIA LUND 48 rue de Turenne - 75003 Paris Tue - Sat 12-7 pm

tél. +33 (0) 1 42 76 00 33 cell. +33 (0) 6 61 15 99 91 e-mail galerie@marialund.com www.marialund.com [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/marialund)