

*STIR HEART:
WOMEN WHO MOVE ART I*

The Museum of Contemporary Art, 23rd January-18th April 2010

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM



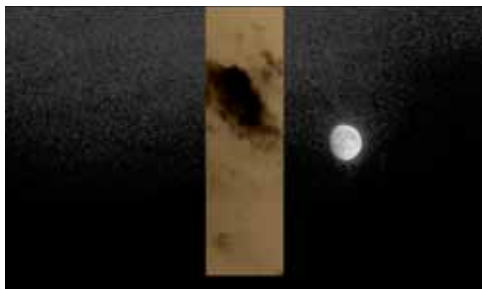
Pipilotti Rist (Swiss, b. 1962)

In *Stir Heart, Rinse Heart*, 2004, a central work in this exhibition, the viewer is suggestively drawn into the body's fascinating interior realms. In this complex video installation several projections are choreographed into one architectonic unit. Medical instruments hanging from the ceiling serve to disrupt the visual flow in the room. The translucent plastic objects function as miniature screens. While the large projection alternates between landscapes and the inner body, a smaller screen shows a woman in motion. She is wearing a yellow dress and red shoes and is eating a blood orange – in Rist's own words, a tale of a goddess's power.



Lotte Konow Lund (Norwegian, b. 1967)

Konow Lund works with drawing, video and photo. She often uses herself in stagings of an unstable subject. *The Total Cycle of Psychoanalysis in Seven Minutes*, 1998, is a video performance where a woman talks about her insecurities, anxiety and frustration with herself. The monologue is repetitive and self-contradictory and confirms an unstable psychological state. The woman says that she is no longer capable of satisfying others. She's no longer capable of being nice. Gestures and tone of voice shift from the aggressive to the subservient. The old cliché about the hysterical woman and psychoanalysis as the road to recovery is here caricatured to the point of tragicomedy.



Unn Fahlstrøm (Norwegian, b. 1975)

In the video *Vision_Listen #2* Unn Fahlstrøm challenges the viewer to look and listen. Images of shifting cloud formations and birds in flight alternate with a horizontal and vertical division. The video has an abstract quality where matter and the media-specific become more apparent with the use of rotation of the images. Just as the abstract imagery is a reference to the early video works of Kjell Bjørgeengen, the use of images from nature refer to what was key in Marianne Heske's early videos. The accompaniment to the video is Arne Nordheim's "Listen", a piece for piano composed in 1971.



Vibeke Tandberg (Norwegian, b. 1967)

Tandberg has worked assiduously over many years with various forms of staged and digitally-altered photographs, often with herself as the main subject. In the photo collage series *Bruised, Tears, Ghost*, 2008, she abandons digital manipulation of the image. She paints over and collages material to three self-portraits until the figures become grotesquely deformed and beyond recognition. With black marker and glue the artist destroys not just the photograph print itself, she vandalizes her own staging. In a humorous way, the artist draws attention to the fluid boundaries between self-production, self-manipulation and self-mutilation. The images represent a new aspect of Tandberg while simultaneously drawing upon issues of identity from an earlier period.



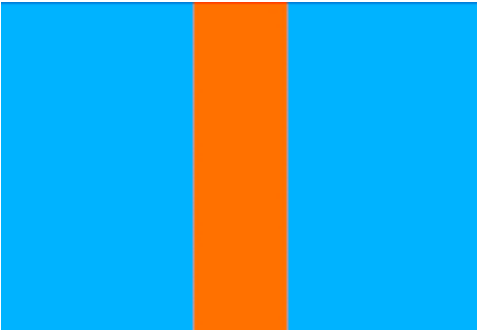
Josefine Lyche (Norwegian, b. 1973)

Lucid Dreams (Buddha Machine), 2008, is based on a ready-made. Lyche uses a little music player on repeat. This "buddha machine" was made by a Chinese music group to play its ambient loops. In Lyche's version the acoustical impulses from the player are converted into visual imagery on a screen. The amorphous, pulsating eruptions of color have a meditative effect. They are reminiscent of the kaleidoscopic underworlds of one's childhood or psychedelic experiences. The viewer's own free-associations and fantasies in encountering the artwork become more significant than the artist's control of the work's inherent characteristics.



Vanessa Baird (Norwegian, b. 1963)

The painter Vanessa Baird is known for her watercolors of animal figures and an intense symbolism. In the series *Seven Steps to Heaven* she begins with traditional religious motifs and symbols and modernizes them by adding symbols from our own era. The five paintings, in which the violent elements are strongly accentuated, can be read as allegories of war, religion and sexuality. Starting with the prophet Isaiah and with acute sarcasm, Baird turns the spotlight on society and the grossly materialistic preoccupations of humanity, a self-destructive focus that impedes our path to salvation.



Gerd Tinglum (Norwegian, b. 1951)

The video work *Forsoning XX (atonement)* is based on Tinglum's studies and explorations of color and color systems. The video is projected from floor to ceiling with abstract shifting color fields that overlap each other and are accompanied by subdued guitar tones. The entire space is defined by the transitions of color, and the tones are based on the rhythm of breathing, embracing and drawing the viewer into the work so that we become a part of it. Tinglum has explored and rendered imagery derived from her color systems in a series of works on paper over the past decade; the video *Forsoning XX (atonement)* is the culminating work in the series.



Nathalie Djurberg (Swedish, b. 1978)

Djurberg's video animation has a fresh look to it, suffused with color. The films are seemingly naïve and simple, and evoke the cartoons and puppet-animation we have seen on children's television. What Djurberg is concerned with, on the other hand, is hardly child-friendly or simple. The brutal and frank content, touching on such themes as gender issues, alienation, violence, sexuality and family relations, can be read on several levels. In Djurberg's two video works absurd scenes and relations between human beings and animals occur, simultaneously obfuscating, intensifying and dissolving the distinctions between the animal and human qualities in both species.

STIR HEART; WOMEN WHO MOVE ART I

This exhibition is the first part of a presentation of contemporary women artists in the National Museum's collection. The title is taken from Pipilotti Rist's video *Stir Heart, Rinse Heart*, 2004, a central work in the exhibition that suggestively draws the viewer into the fascinating inner realms of the body. Other artists include Vanessa Baird, Nathalie Djurberg, Unn Fahlstrøm, Lotte Konow Lund, Josefine Lyche, Vibeke Tandberg and Gerd Tinglum. The works move us in a variety of ways; some of them show a devil-may-care feminist attitude, while others appeal on a purely sensual level.

Emotionally Stirring

The exhibition pays tribute to 8 leading female artists. Although quite divergent in form and content, the artists share approaches that we might call emotionally stirring. The emotional as a genre or style has been described as a fundamental female way of expression. But the new perspective on our collection is not supposed to be feminist per se, with the danger of putting the presented artists into a narrow definition. Thus the exhibition goes beyond conventional associations of female art with emotions and the body. Concept, abstraction, and negation – characteristics usually attributed to male artists – are equally presented here.

The Museum of Contemporary Art

Bankplassen 4, Oslo

Telephone: 21 98 20 00 (08.00–16.00 Monday–Friday)

Opening hours

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 11.00–17.00

Thursday 11.00–19.00

Saturday and Sunday 12.00–17.00

Monday closed

Reading lounge

During the exhibition it will be possible to immerse oneself in literature that shed light on the subjects of the exhibition and the artists. Welcome to our reading lounge in the Museum of Contemporary Art. Furniture in the reading lounge is sponsored by;

vitra.

Library

In the National Museum's Library at Kristian Augusts gate 23 visitors can read exhibition catalogues and magazines. All material is placed on the first floor. The library consists of a big collection art historical literature, many magazines and a reading lounge. Open Monday–Friday 10.00–16.00

Curators: Andrea Kroksnes and Randi Godø

Educational mediator: Ann Kristin Sørli

EVENTS

Saturday 23rd January at 13.00

Opening of the exhibition by director Audun Eckhoff
Music by BLY

Thursday 4th February at 17.00

Artist talk

Sunday 7th February at 14.00

Guided tour by senior curator Andrea Kroksnes

Thursday 4th March at 17.00

Artist discussion "Feminism in art: topical?"

Sunday 21st March at 14.00

Guided tour by curator Randi Godø

Guided tours on Sundays at 14.00

24th January, 21st February, 7th March and 18th April

Guided tours and workshop:

31st January and 28th March at 13.00–15.00

Booking: Guided tour and workshop

E-mail: omvisninger@nasjonalmuseet.no

Telephone: 21 98 22 18 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 09.00–15.00

Guided tours for schools and students are free.

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