

THE SHADOW

21 CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS
UNFURL H.C. ANDERSEN'S
FAIRYTALE

MAY 28TH - SEPTEMBER 4TH 2005

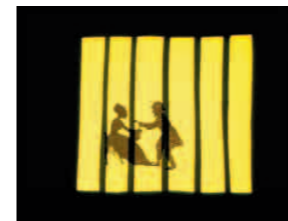
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The exhibition titled *The Shadow* constitutes Vestsjællands Kunstmuseum's offering to this year's worldwide celebration of Hans Christian Andersen's 200th birthday. The exhibition takes its mark in the author's fairytale, penned in 1847, about the learned man and his diabolic shadow and invites the interested viewer to amble through the captivating aspects of the shadow motif as we come to encounter them in the realm of contemporary art.

Twenty-one visual artists from the United States, South America, Africa, Asia and Europe are taking part. Several are showing works that have been created especially for the exhibition in Sorø, using Hans Christian Andersen's story as their point of departure. In the company of the various artists, all of whom belong to the global art scene's elite, we come to meet shadow pictures as they are transposed into silhouettes, doublegangers and spellbinding phantasmagoria. Since the artists are working within contemporary art's wide gamut of expressions, *The Shadow* exhibition encompasses painting, work made on paper, video, installation, collage, photography and light works.

The Shadow is one of Hans Christian Andersen's most unfathomable tales – and one of his stories that has served as the object for a host of different interpretations. This is especially because of the riveting shadow picture that Andersen employs, one that renders this dark narrative ever so befitting for a confluence between literature and visual art. The connection to the realm of visual art is further underscored by the belief that it was actually the sketching of a silhouette which provided the occasion for the very first painting in the history of art. Within the disciplines of photography and



cinema, shadow pictures also occupy a central role, seeing as the shadow play and the stabilization of the otherwise flighty shadows constituted the historical basis for these branches of art – where so many artists are engaged in the present day.

It can also be said that when one reads this fairytale as a Gothic story revolving around doublegangers and demonic powers, it somehow falls into place when considered in relation to contemporary art. This comes to light at the exhibition, where the artists are working with the fairytale's theme of good's struggle with evil and with knowledge, enlightenment and rationality versus the irrational and subconscious. Yet another important theme that can be drawn forth at the exhibition is the shadow picture as the artist's self-portrait, where the shadow stands for the reverse aspect of fame and success.

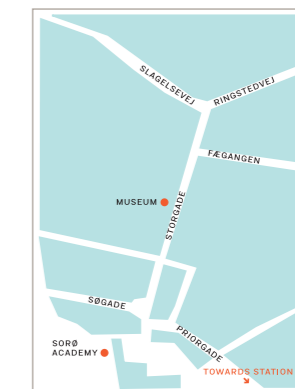
The exhibition will occupy the museum's entire interior expanse, which has been remodeled for the occasion. In addition, certain spots in the town of Sorø, such as the old water tower at Sorø Train Station and the Sorø

ARTISTS: JULIE NORD (DK) • SPENCER FINCH (USA) • STIG BRØGGER (DK) • REGINA SILVEIRA (BRAZIL) • STEFAN SAFFER (GERMANY) • PER BAK JENSEN (DK) • KUNIÉ SUGIURA (JAPAN/USA) • WILLIAM KENTRIDGE (SOUTH AFRICA) • POVL CHRISTENSEN (DK) • ARTURO HERRERA (USA) • KARINA PEISAJOVICH (ARGENTINA) • JEANNETTE EHLERS (DK) • WILLIE DOHERTY (N.IRELAND) • JOACHIM KOESTER (DK) • YOSHIHIKO ITO (JAPAN) • HANNA HAASLAHTI (FINLAND) • KARA WALKER (USA) • SOPHIE CALLE (FRANCE/USA) • DOUGLAS GORDON (SCOTLAND) • ANDY WARHOL (USA) • VITO ACCONCI (USA)

Academy, are being called into play as part of the show. A comprehensive catalogue in Danish and English accompanies the exhibition, which has been conceived and arranged by the museum's curator, Christine Buhl Andersen. Among other items, the catalogue contains essays by two younger Danish authors, Lars Bukdahl and Merete Pryds Helle, as well as presentations of all of the participating artists and their works and also contains a remarkable 'shadow encyclopedia', where a number of chosen experts have written sketches about the shadow's significance in their respective fields.

GUIDED TOURS CAN BE ARRANGED BY TELEPHONING
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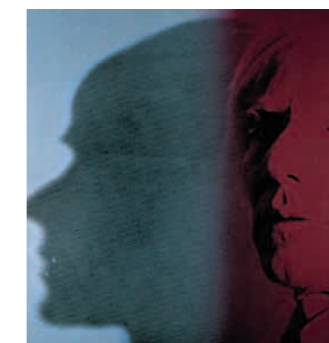


Regional trains depart from Copenhagen/Funen/Jutland every hour. Local bus number 806 connects the museum with Sorø Train Station.

The exhibition is open
Tuesday - Sunday 11 am - 5 pm

KARA WALKER *Emancipated, And on Tour*, 2000
Courtesy Brent Sikkema Gallery, New York

REGINA SILVEIRA *Quimera*, 2003
© Regina Silveira / COPY-DAN Billedkunst 20050085
Courtesy Galeria Brito Cimino, São Paulo



ANDY WARHOL
The Shadow, 1981
© Andy Warhol / COPY-DAN
Billedkunst 20050085
Courtesy Ronald Feldman
Fine Arts, New York

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