

Galleri Riis

ELINE MUGAAS

Nødvendigheten av leddsetninger

January 30 – March 8, 2020

We are pleased to present the exhibition Nødvendigheten av leddsetninger (The Necessity of Dependent Clauses) by Eline Mugaas, her 10th with the gallery since 2002.

Eline Mugaas collects. She collects her own and others' pictures, or snippets of pictures in pictures, of the arms that carry, of the box that closes around things, the hands that embrace. A rotating gesture is central in this exhibition which includes the installation she made for the Lorck Schive Art Prize at the Trondheim Art Museum in 2019. In a film from Brancusi's studio, a woman dances on a low pedestal, twisting her body as she moves her arm over her head. The gesture reminded Mugaas of elements from art history, from the Caryatids, pillars shaped like women's bodies carrying temples on their heads, or mourners from ancient jars that raise their arms over their heads to tear at their hair as an expression of grief, to the twisted female bodies in Matisse's paintings. It also made her think of the movement when swinging an object up to your head in order to use the body's vertical axis to carry the weight, or when lifting a child.

Mugaas has created an installation consisting of sculpture, video and postcards, elements that can act as subordinates in a larger whole; that can be followed from one constellation to another. Like the cardboard boxes that came from the publisher Primary Information with the book *Siri Aurdal* by Eline Mugaas, a project in which Mugaas took the role of support structure for another artist who lacked the framework that was needed to continue to be visible as an artist. The sculptures are support structures in themselves; bookshelves, pedestals. The process of making the sculptures has caused the underlying cardboard boxes to sag and yield, before the papier-mâché, glue and cement dry and make them harder and stronger. The shelves bulge, giving in to their own weight, but are at the same time strong enough to carry weight. Bookshelves are support structures for content. Mugaas' bookshelves are apparently empty. In the gallery's Annex space, Mugaas will present a constellation of new images and a photo mural.

Eline Mugaas (f. 1969 in Oslo) received her artistic education from The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York City and is one of the leading artists of her generation in Scandinavia, working with camera-based art. She also works with film, sculpture and installation, and has both as a visual artist and curator made a significant impact on the contemporary art scene in Norway. In 2019 she was the recipient of the largest art prize in Scandinavia, the Lorck Schive Art Prize. Mugaas lives and works in Oslo.