

Galleri Riis

MORTEN ANDENÆS

Child smiled. Blank stares.

October 14 – November 13, 2021

Galleri Riis is pleased to announce the opening of Child smiled. Blank stares. Morten Andenæs' sixth exhibition with the gallery.

Like much of his work over the past decade, the 25 new photographic works on display revolve around fundamental questions pertaining to picture-making. What role do images play in how we perceive the world and each other, and what possibilities do we have of transcending or seeing beyond these horizons?

Home and the immediate family is a recurring theme in Andenæs' work. This initial world of ours around the kitchen table is a breeding ground for conflicting emotions and narratives that must be renegotiated and reevaluated in the course of a lifetime. For the child, distinctions between you and I, myth and reality or home and world are blurry, and the photographic juxtapositions in the exhibition mirror this fluidity.

In Andenæs' work an array of conflicting narratives are in play. Each image is allowed room to mirror the complexity of experienced reality without reducing it to simple slogans or analysis. In the photographs on display, details from art history and popular culture seep into familiar tropes like still-life, landscape studies and family portraiture, whilst Andenæs' representations of well-known animals and objects vacillate between a picture-book matter-of-factness and an altogether more ambiguous and anthropomorphic approach.

The exhibition coincides with the release of *We live in the house across the street*, published by Teknisk Industri AS. This is Andenæs first book since *Skyldfolk*, which was published in 2013.