

Galleri Riis

STEIN RØNNING

Epicurean Allegory

January 20 – February 19, 2022

We are pleased to present an exhibition with new works by Stein Rønning, with an opening reception Thursday January 20, between 5-8 PM.

The exhibition Epicurean Allegory is Rønning's 12th exhibition with Galleri Riis since his first in 1987. The exhibition consists of digitally processed photographic prints and small sculptures, that all but one, have their origins in objects made thirty years ago. The exhibition is a further development of sculptural objects and photographic images that until recently have been kept apart, but which in this exhibition are presented in a direct relationship, assembled in three groups in three rooms. In these works, the materials have been the subject of research and investigation behind their traditionally modern function as a neutral basis for artistic gestures and signs; - whether there are connotations in the materials and their bonds and composition that can be brought into dialog with the expressive and linguistic function of the artworks. The title of the exhibition, Epicurean Allegory, suggests a pictorial narrative about material conditions.

“For me, this is the first compilation of these images and sculptures where they are shown in the same perspective. I think it's a matter of looking under what is linguistically coded and into the materials - as they are no longer infinitely open and accessible. I think it's about a puncture of the romantic modern image, where everything is seen as open, possible and accessible and where we in the language are separated from and floating over the surroundings. I think it's about the inside and outside, absorption and reflection - and about the material things that are somewhere in between” - Stein Rønning, January 2022

A limited edition catalogue will be published on the occasion of the exhibition.

Stein Rønning (b. 1953) in Askim, Norway, received his artistic education from The Trondheim Academy of Fine Art and Vestlandets Kunstakademi in Bergen. After several decades of teaching and holding professorships at Oslo National Academy of the Arts and

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Bergen Academy of Arts and Design, Rønning has exhibited regularly in recent years, as well as publishing a series of smaller publications and two monographs. In his work he pursues an interest in combining painting, photography and object. His photographic prints seem to camouflage as painted surfaces and the finely tuned nuances among the works themselves command a heightened sense of attention in the viewer, as well as a calibration of the exhibition space. Rønning employs a similar complex and conceptual approach to his long-standing and meandering series of sculptures in various materials as plaster and cellulose coated with pigments and polymers, as well as patinated cast bronze.

Stein Rønning lives and works in Oslo.