

里森画廊

LISSON GALLERY

Press Release

Nathalie Djurberg & Hans Berg *A Stream Stood Still*

17 February – 7 May 2022

2/F, 27 Huqiu Road, Huangpu District, Shanghai

Opening: Thursday 17 February, 4 – 6pm

Lisson Gallery Shanghai is delighted to announce its first exhibition of work by the Swedish artistic duo, Nathalie Djurberg & Hans Berg. Following their recent show, 'A Moon Wrapped in Brown Paper', at Shanghai's Prada Rong Zhai, this presentation sees the artists – known for their psychologically-charged clay-animation films and adventurous sculptural works – immerse the gallery space in a sea of flowers, with 15 new sculptures created specifically for the show.

Following their solo exhibition at Prada Rong Zhai, Djurberg & Berg extend some of the installed elements from the previous show and have transformed Lisson Gallery's Shanghai space into an enchanted garden with a series of delicate, colourful flower sculptures. The concept of a hidden garden came initially from Djurberg's childhood memories of reading *One Thousand and One Nights*, in which Aladdin, hunting for treasure, found himself in an underground garden filled with fruits made of gemstones hanging from trees. In 2009, the artists created their first major work inspired by flora and fauna, a subversively surreal and immersive Garden of Eden, entitled *The Experiment*, for the 53rd Venice Biennial, for which they were awarded the Silver Lion for best emerging artists.

These new flower sculptures – some wall-mounted, some freestanding – have less in common with earlier cartoon-inflected uses of the motif, instead exhibiting a fragile beauty and an untamable, organic logic of their own. Constructed from mixed media – employing modelling clay, paint, fabric and resin – the sculptures recall real species of lily or orchid, as well as fantastical floral arrangements in other-worldly colours and forms. Flowers recur in Djurberg & Berg's practice due to their abiding interest in the fleeting nature of human emotions and their shared symbolism for human themes of love, joy, desire, sadness and vulnerability.

For this show, the audience is invited to embark on a journey through this wild, interconnected ecosystem and unleash their innermost fantasies through their own interpretations of the works. As they walk through the gallery space, flowers are seen growing alongside different species and emerging on marine-blue branches, evoking the flow of water from where all life begins and grows. The deep blue surfaces represent an internal stream of emotions manifested in physical form, visualizing desires and confusions, love and regret, perfection and imperfection, from which new shoots emerge and entangle with one another. Alongside these 15 sculptures is a new charcoal animation, whose darker tone contrasts with the variegated colour palette of the sculptural works.

Djurberg & Berg made their Chinese solo debut with a show entitled 'Secret Garden' at Shanghai's Minsheng Art Museum in 2016. Djurberg & Berg's solo show at the Kunsthalle Luzern, Switzerland will open to the public this April, followed by a solo presentation at Musée d'Art Contemporain in Lyon, France in 2023.

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About the artists

Mixing animation, sculpture and sound, Nathalie Djurberg and Hans Berg create psychologically charged scenarios dealing with human and animalistic desires. Since 2001, Djurberg has developed a distinctive style of filmmaking, using clay animation to dramatise the basest of natural instincts from jealousy, revenge and greed, to submission and lust. Her partner, the musician and composer Hans Berg, conjures up the atmospheric sound effects and scores the hypnotic music for Djurberg's animations and installations. In 2004 they began working closely together as a duo to create transgressive narratives rich in symbolic meaning and emotional reach, mining allegorical myths and grotesque, nightmarish visions in pieces, such as *Tiger Licking Girl's Butt* (2004), *We Are Not Two, We Are One* (2008), and more recently, *Worship* (2016) and *Dark Side of the Moon* (2017). The artists' interdisciplinary collaborations increasingly blur the cinematic, the sculptural and the performative in immersive environments that pair moving images and musical compositions with related set pieces or built objects.

Nathalie Djurberg and Hans Berg currently live and work in Sweden. Born in Lysekil, Sweden in 1978, Nathalie Djurberg received her MFA from Malmö Art Academy, Sweden in 2002. Hans Berg was born in Rättvik, Sweden in 1978 and is a musician, producer and composer, working mainly with electronic music. Select solo exhibitions include 'A Moon Wrapped in Brown Paper' at Prada Rong Zhai, Shanghai, China (2021); 'Delights of an Undirected Mind' at the Baltimore Museum of Art, USA (2018); 'A Journey Through Mud and Confusion with Small Glimpses of Air' at Modern Museet, Stockholm, Sweden (2018); touring to Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art of Trento and Rovereto, Italy (2018) and Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, Germany (2019); Museum Frieder Burda | Salon Berlin, Germany (2017); Stavanger Art Museum (MUST), Norway (2017); Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts (PICA), Australia (2016); Wanås Konst, Knislinge, Sweden (2016); Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai, China (2016); Sammlung Goetz, Munich, Germany (2015); Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA), Melbourne, Australia (2015); ARoS Aarhus Kunstmuseum, Aarhus, Denmark (2015); Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA, USA (2014); Garage Center for Contemporary Culture, Moscow, Russia (2013); and Camden Arts Centre, London, UK (2011). They have exhibited widely together in group shows, including the 53rd Venice Biennale, Italy in 2009, and their work is featured in a number of collections around the world, including the Prada Foundation in Milan, Italy and the Museum of Modern Art in New York, USA.

About Lisson Gallery

Lisson Gallery is one of the most influential and longest-running international contemporary art galleries in the world. Today the gallery supports and promotes the work of more than 60 international artists across two spaces in London, two in New York and one in Shanghai. Established in 1967 by Nicholas Logsdail, Lisson Gallery pioneered the early careers of important Minimal and Conceptual artists, such as Art & Language, Carl Andre, Daniel Buren, Donald Judd, John Latham, Sol LeWitt, Richard Long and Robert Ryman among many others. It still works with many of these artists as well as others of that generation from Carmen Herrera to the renowned estates of Leon Polk Smith, Ted Stamm and Roy Colmer. In its second decade the gallery introduced significant British sculptors to the public for the first time, including Tony Cragg, Richard Deacon, Anish Kapoor, Shirazeh Houshiary and Julian Opie. Since 2000, the gallery has gone on to represent many more leading international artists such as Marina Abramović, Ai Weiwei, John Akomfrah, Susan Hiller, Tatsuo Miyajima and Sean Scully. It is also responsible for raising the international profile of a younger generation of artists led by Cory Arcangel, Nathalie Djurberg & Hans Berg, Ryan Gander, Haroon Mirza, Laure Prouvost, Pedro Reyes and Wael Shawky.

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