

GALERIE MITTERRAND

A KASSEN

BRONZE POUR

8 SEP > 29 OCT 2022

OPENING ON THURSDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2022

PRESS RELEASE

Galerie Mitterrand is pleased to announce the first solo exhibition of Danish artist collective A Kassen. Entitled *Bronze Pour*, the work is an ensemble of five bronze sculptures, and echoes a performance from August of last year at the Domaine du Muy.

The members of A Kassen (Christian Bretton-Meyer, Morten Steen Hebsgaard, Søren Petersen, and Tommy Petersen) have been creating conceptual works since they met in 2004 while studying at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen. Their artistic practice is extremely varied, and includes sculpture, performance art, architecture, and photography. The collective's work addresses key issues surrounding the notion of an artist's paternity of their works, of the predominance of the process over the finished object, and of the value of the object with regards to art history. Their works are often site-specific, and regularly involve performance art: they relate to both an audience and a place.

The series *Bronze Pour* follows on from the *Aluminium Pour* series started in 2014. The sculptures were made by pouring small quantities of hot, molten bronze directly into water; the bronze cools upon contact, and then forms small, serendipitous shapes, which are scanned and then cast in bronze on a larger scale. This results in random, organic, fluid forms that are determined by the properties of the elements involved in their creation: the water, the bronze, and the respective temperature of each. By allowing the laws of nature to mould the finished product, A Kassen experiments with the unpredictability of the medium.

Bronze sculpture evokes thousands of years of practice and savoir-faire, but here it is created independently of the artist's will. Although necessarily abstract, the works from *Bronze Pour* can be evocative of modern sculpture, notably by their biomorphic forms that hark back to works by 20th-century sculptors such as Jan Arp and Henry Moore. Nonetheless, while a comparison in terms of form is possible, the works of A Kassen are unique in the way they are conceived: a haphazard creative process that precipitates the finished object.

The work of A Kassen is featured in numerous international collections including that of the Malmö Konstmuseum in Sweden, the Centro de Arte Dos de Mayo in Spain, and the Kunstuseum Brandts in Denmark. Their works have recently been shown in several institutions including Bærum Kunsthall in Norway, the Kunsthall Charlottenborg in Copenhagen, and the Fondation CAB in Brussels. Two permanent installations can be visited in Aarhus, Denmark; and Lund, Sweden. In 2014, A Kassen received the Carnegie Art Award that promotes Nordic contemporary art.

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