

Press release // John Kørner: *Tongue Out*

20 January – 11 March 2023

Galleri Bo Bjerggaard

On Friday **20 January 2023** Galleri Bo Bjerggaard is opening *Tongue Out*, an exhibition by John Kørner (b. 1967). In his fourth solo show at the gallery, the artist invites us in with his signature bright colours, painterly lightness and elegance.

Twenty years ago, Kørner exhibited at Herning Kunstmuseum. The theme was Greenlandic issues, and Kørner showed paintings and "icebergs". In the current show, *Tongue Out*, a glacier greets us at the stairs and guides us through the entire exhibition, featuring a new group of paintings, painted "problems", ceramic sculptures and some of the "icebergs" seen in 2003 at Kørner's first museum show.

The jumping-off point is the rugged, snow-covered mountains of the north and south, where the commanding geological shapes of glaciers dictate the human agenda. A glacier's mutability is visible to the naked eye, as we witness the passage of time laid bare by climate change.

Tongue Out takes us on a journey, introducing us to everything from the gorgeous northern lights to a solitary person taking a bath in a small box in the open landscape. Often, each painting has more than one narrative, opening up multiple approaches to the work.

In the *Tongue Out* exhibition catalogue, Bibi Henriksen Saugman writes,

In their riotous quietudes, his paintings let us know that something beautiful that once was forever is on the verge of disappearing, melting away, while the powers that be sermonize, cluelessly argue with each other and, lost, continue to sin.

The signs are clear and everywhere in this exhibition. The tongue of a glacier runs through the gallery, like a conveyor belt between mountains tops. The glacier drags along evidence in constant change.

Kørner works in a variety of media – painting, printmaking, sculpture and installation.

In Denmark, His work is represented at the ARKEN Museum of Modern Art, ARoS Aarhus Art Museum and the National Gallery of Denmark, among other institutions. Kørner's work is also represented in international collections, including the Rubell Family Collection, Miami; Tate Gallery, London; and the Saatchi Collection, London.