

'Sea Salt and Cross Passes'

Matias Faldbakken, Chadwick Rantanen, Torbjørn Rødland, Oscar Tuazon, Fredrik Vørslev

Curated by STANDARD (OSLO)

The Modern Institute, Osborne Street

07 September - 19 October 2013

Gallery Open: 10am-6pm, Monday - Friday, 12-5pm Saturday

The Modern Institute are delighted to present 'Sea Salt and Cross Passes', curated by STANDARD (OSLO). STANDARD (OSLO) was established in April 2005. Based in Oslo, the gallery aims to promote contemporary Norwegian artists in the international field, as well as introducing international artists to a Norwegian audience.

'Sea Salt and Cross Passes' is the first part of an exchange between STANDARD (OSLO) and The Modern Institute. The second part, curated by The Modern Institute will be held at STANDARD (OSLO) in 2014. Within this inaugural exchange The Modern Institute intends to work with another international gallery, presenting contemporary visual artists from another scene to an audience in Scotland.

Taking its departure from the maritime relations between Norway and Scotland, as instrumented by the connecting North Sea, 'Sea Salt and Cross Passes' is thematically underpinned by the nautical pastimes of both countries - as nations of sailors and a long tradition of maritime paintings.

Centering the works in this exhibition on an enquiry into this genre and re-visiting traditional parameters within a contemporary context, 'Sea Salt and Cross Passes' explores the whimsical connotations of maritime paintings. Through this framework, their significance is rooted in the aspects of animation and composition adopted within such paintings. The ship as the painting's focal point is frequently found to be leaning diagonally. This stance is both a tool to achieve a dynamic composition - as the diagonal represents the most dynamic visual direction, and is also a catalyst for creating implied movement within the picture. The resultant scene is one of an active composition with a specific reference to the elements of nature not visible to the human eye.

Installed in this exhibition is a painting by Martin Aagaard, of an unknown date. This painting depicts three sailing ships on the sea between them creating a triple echo of diagonal movement. In response to this position 'Sea Salt and Cross Passes' incorporates works by Matias Faldbakken, Chadwick Rantanen, Torbjørn Rødland, Oscar Tuazon and Fredrik Vørslev. Across a variety of media, each artist's work plays along this path of influence - further echoing this diagonal line and mythologising life by the North Sea.

Matias Faldbakken (b.1973, Hobro, Denmark) lives and works in Oslo, Norway. Selected solo exhibitions include: Hamar Kunstforening, Hamar, Norway (2013); WIELS Contemporary Art Centre, Brussels (2012); STANDARD (OSLO), Oslo (2012); Office for Contemporary Art, Oslo (2012); The Power Station, Dallas (2011); Objectif Exhibitions, Antwerp (2010); Neuer Aachener Kunstverein, Aachen (2010); Ikon Gallery, Birmingham (2009); and Kunsthalle St. Gallen, St. Gallen (2009). Faldbakken recently presented work in DOCUMENTA (13), Kassel (2012), and has exhibited in group exhibitions including those at: ICA, London (2012); Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2010); and The Whitney Biennial 2006, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.

Chadwick Rantanen (b. 1981, Wausau, Wisconsin) lives and works in Los Angeles, USA. Selected recent exhibitions include: Essex Street, New York (Solo, 2013); United Artists, Ltd., Texas (2013); STANDARD (OSLO), Oslo (Solo, 2012); Moscow Museum of Modern Art, Moscow (2012); Dan Graham, Los Angeles (Solo, 2010); and Jancar Jones Gallery, San Francisco (Solo, 2010).

Torbjørn Rødland (b. 1970, Stavanger, Norway) lives and works in Los Angeles, USA. Selected solo exhibitions include: Air de Paris, Paris (2012); STANDARD (OSLO), Oslo (2011); Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Hiroshima (2010); Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, St. Louis (2010); and MoMA PS1, New York (2006). Rødland participated in the 48th Venice Biennale (1999) and has exhibited in group exhibitions including those at: Musée d'Art Contemporain de Lyon, Lyon (2009); Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (2005); and Centre Pompidou, Paris (2000).

Oscar Tuazon (b.1975, Seattle, Washington) lives and works in Paris, France and Tacoma, USA. Selected solo exhibitions include: Gallery dépendance, Brussels (2013); Galerie Eva Presnhuner, Zürich (2012); STANDARD (OSLO), Oslo (2011); The Power Station, Dallas (2011); ICA, London; Kunsthalle Bern (2010); Kunstlerhaus Stuttgart (2010); Seattle Art Museum (2008); and the Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2007). He recently produced the public art commission 'People' for Brooklyn Bridge Park, New York (2012). Tuazon participated in the 54th Venice Biennale (2011) and has exhibited in group exhibitions including those at: Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (2011); The Whitney Biennale (2012, 2006), Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; WIELS Centre for Contemporary Art, Brussels (2010); and Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2009).

Fredrik Vørslev (b.1979, Moss, Norway) lives and works in Drøbak, Norway. Selected solo exhibitions include: STANDARD (OSLO), Oslo (2012); Indipendenza Studio, Rome (2012); Front Desk Apparatus, New York (2012); Johan Berggren Gallery, Malmö (2012); and CIRCUS, Berlin (2011). Vørslev has exhibited in group exhibitions including those at: Centre Pompidou, Paris (2012); CCA Andratx, Mallorca (2012); Le Printemps de Septembre, Toulouse (2011); and Malmö Art Museum, Malmö (2010)