

For immediate release

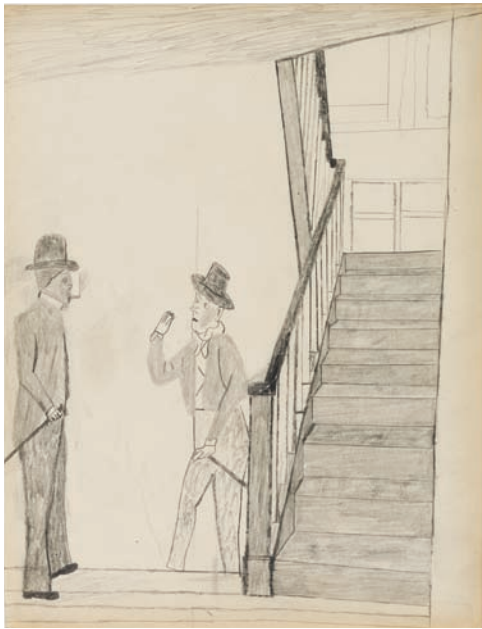
JOCKUM NORDSTRÖM

For the insects and the hounds

28 November 2014 – 24 January 2015

Private view: Thursday 27 November, 6 – 8 PM

Press preview with the artist and Justine Durrett, Director at David Zwirner: 10 AM



When I met myself, 2014
Graphite on paper
32 x 25 cm (12 5/8 x 9 7/8 inches)

David Zwirner is pleased to present an exhibition of new work by Swedish artist Jockum Nordström, which marks his first solo show at the gallery in London. This presentation follows the artist's recent major European survey, *All I Have Learned and Forgotten Again*, that was on view in 2013 at Lille Métropole, musée d'art moderne, d'art contemporain et d'art brut in Villeneuve d'Ascq, France, before it travelled to the Camden Arts Centre in London, making it the first solo exhibition of his work in the city.

For the insects and the hounds brings together Nordström's latest body of work produced in a farmhouse studio on Gotland, an island located off the southeastern coast of Sweden, greatly differing from his usual workspace in Stockholm. The exhibition's title insinuates these remote, rural environs—Nordström has noted how insects would fall from the ceiling onto the works below and that the family dog was his only disruption in the studio—and further evokes the tensions between man and nature, reality and fantasy which more broadly characterise the artist's practice.

Delicately and elegantly constructed, Nordström's collages, watercolours, graphite drawings, and architectural sculptures feel improvisational and spontaneous, yet rich in detail. His works on paper read like storyboards, often referred to by the artist as "stills," where all the action takes place simultaneously within a frozen frame. His imaginative tableaux-like

environments appear as fantastical settings populated with unique figures, animals, architecture, furniture, musical instruments, and other props, all varying in scale and composition. Demonstrating his innovative approach to illustration and his distinctive choice in subject matter, his works feature an assorted cast of characters, seemingly pulled from different eras, and frequently employ unusual horizontal or vertical formats that recall the sequential arrangement of comic books and filmstrips.

The exhibition's centerpieces will include three large-scale works on paper, each measuring over two metres in length, that take inspiration from frescoes found in the numerous medieval churches on Gotland, most readily seen here with the floating female figures encircled by rays of lights who the artist attributes to Gothic madonnas. The layered, heavily worked surfaces of these watercolours convey Nordström's meticulous, labour-intensive process, which begins by making paper cutouts of figures and other objects with individualised, hand-drawn features—accumulating hundreds that are collected in piles around the studio. Pulling from this vast stockpile, he arranges the cutouts, only settling on the final placement once charged connotations are achieved between the characters and their settings. The ambiguous, hidden narratives imbue the works with a sense of intrigue, which is furthered by enigmatic titles varying from colloquial expressions to poetic vignettes and streams of consciousness, as exemplified by the graphite drawing *When I met myself*, depicting two men in antiquated dress within a nondescript interior whose interaction remains unintelligible.

(continue to next page)

For the present exhibition, Nordström continues to fabricate sculptures from cardboard, matchboxes, and other found scraps of paper, which have become increasingly important to his practice since he began showing them in the mid-2000s. The artist considers his three-dimensional paper objects to be an extension of his two-dimensional drawings and collages. His latest sculptures appear more abstract and formal than previous examples that were representational, directly referencing architecture as small-scale models of modernist-looking buildings. With their square and rectangular formats resembling picture frames, the new sculptures seem to stand as miniature abstract paintings and also operate as an innovative way for the artist to further explore the physical qualities of paper and mark-making.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully illustrated publication forthcoming in 2015 by David Zwirner Books.

Jockum Nordström was born in 1963 in Stockholm, where he continues to live and work. In 2000, the artist joined David Zwirner, where he had his first United States solo show that same year, marking the first of five at the gallery in New York.

Nordström's work has been the focus of solo exhibitions at prominent institutions worldwide, including the Camden Arts Centre, London; Lille Métropole, musée d'art moderne, d'art contemporain et d'art brut, Villeneuve d'Ascq, France (both 2013); Swedish Institute, Paris (2011); Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin (2010); and the Moderna Museet, Stockholm (2005).

Work by the artist is represented in museum collections that include the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Cleveland Museum of Art, Ohio; Göteborgs Konstmuseum, Gothenburg, Sweden; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Magasin 3 Stockholm Konsthall; Moderna Museet, Stockholm; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst (S.M.A.K.), Ghent; Västerås Konstmuseum, Sweden; and the Weatherspoon Art Museum, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Special Event

Book launch and signing with Jockum Nordström and Mamma Andersson at David Zwirner Friday 28 November, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

The artists will be signing copies of the eagerly awaited reprint of *Who is sleeping on my pillow*.
Co-hosted by David Zwirner Books & the *London Review of Books*

Originally published on the occasion of the 2010 exhibition at David Zwirner in New York, *Who is sleeping on my pillow* marked the first time Jockum Nordström and Mamma Andersson presented their work in concurrent solo shows, after spending half their lives together while maintaining separate practices. The book showcases Nordström's and Andersson's work from the late 1980s to 2010 in over 200 full-colour plates, alongside favourite family snapshots and source materials. It is being reissued by David Zwirner Books to coincide with Nordström's exhibition at the gallery in London (28 November 2014 – 24 January 2015) and Andersson's exhibition at the gallery in New York (8 January – 21 February 2015).

Also available will be *Jockum Nordström: All I Have Learned and Forgotten Again* (Hatje Cantz, 2013), published on the occasion of the artist's recent museum exhibition on view at Lille Métropole, musée d'art moderne, d'art contemporain et d'art brut in Villeneuve d'Ascq in France, followed by the Camden Arts Centre in London.

For more information about the book signing and to reserve signed copies, contact
Charlotte Brooks +44 (0)20 3538 3165 charlotte@davidzwirner.com.

For all press enquiries and to RSVP to the 27 November press preview, contact
Jenny Lea +44 (0)20 3538 3165 jenny@davidzwirner.com