



View of the exhibition "Past Tomorrow" by Elmgreen & Dragset at Galerie Perrotin, New York. Photo: Guillaume Ziccarelli. Courtesy of the artists

ELMGREEN & DRAGSET "Past Tomorrow"

Galerie Perrotin, New York

April 16 – May 23, 2015

Opening Reception: Thursday, April 16, 6-8pm

Galerie Perrotin New York is pleased to present "Past Tomorrow", a solo exhibition by Elmgreen & Dragset. Continuing the artist duo's interest in creating new narratives by staging psychologically charged domestic interiors, this installation transforms the gallery space into a densely furnished bedroom. Norman Swann – the bedroom's fictional, absent inhabitant – first appeared as the protagonist in Elmgreen & Dragset's 2013 exhibition "Tomorrow" at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, where the artists turned a section of the museum into Mr. Swann's grand family home. "Past Tomorrow" at Galerie Perrotin New York follows the life of Mr. Swann, an elderly, disillusioned and failed architect, after his inheritance runs out and he is forced to leave his home in London's South Kensington neighborhood, resettling in a smaller apartment in New York's Upper East Side. The exhibition now focuses solely on his bedroom, which is filled with elements related to his turbulent biography and the nostalgia, sorrows and regrets of his personal life. The story of Norman Swann is the story of growing older, of values shifting over time. An old man whose lifestyle and beliefs are grounded in the past and no longer align with contemporary culture, Swann's character can be regarded as a metaphor for "old Europe", stubbornly refusing to face its changed position within the world.

The detailed environment draws inspiration from late 19th-century interior paintings, as did films directed by Ingmar Bergman or Luchino Visconti. Like a film set for a movie that was never made, the installation's artifacts, books, personal items and everyday props are all used to describe a long, sometimes disappointing, life. Dark, red walls surround an imposing, black lacquered bed in the center of the room – a work entitled "Omnes Una Manet Nox", which translates to "One Night Awaits Us All." Perched on top of one of the bedposts is a gold-plated vulture. Titled "The Critic", the vulture figure has recurred in all of Elmgreen & Dragset's recent solo exhibitions in varying formats, materials and sizes. The room is furnished with a selection of custom and ready-made, classic European-style furniture positioned together with altered or specially made decorative items. On the walls hang photographs and sketches depicting scenes from Mr. Swann's life in London and New York.

A half-open nightstand drawer reveals small boxes and bottles of prescription medications with labels like "Truvada" and "Prezista", medicines used to treat HIV. Due to the development of drugs like these, HIV no longer inevitably leads to a premature death. But lower mortality rates have unfortunately led to a decrease in media attention and public information about the illness. Swann's personal tragedy is shown here in contrast to a never-ending hunger for sensational news headlines. Elmgreen & Dragset's character Mr. Swann is a symbol of a generation for whom the AIDS crisis came as a life-altering shock in the early 1980s. However, having survived the epidemic, he now faces a retirement age that for him was neither expected nor planned. "Past Tomorrow" addresses the issue of aging: What place does the complexity of a mature individual's winding past hold in a society obsessed with youth?

Norman Swann's biographical story as it is told by Elmgreen & Dragset is not a linear one. Mr. Swann's persona is portrayed by mixing together different time periods and locations, cutting and pasting details and scenes from this fictional character's life, as in a novel by Robbe-Grillet or Le Clézio.

A booklet containing further clues about Norman Swann's history will accompany the exhibition.

Upcoming Exhibitions : from April 23, 2015 to March 2016, **High Line Art** presents "Panorama", an international outdoor group exhibition about vistas and vantage points both natural and manmade. Elmgreen & Dragset introduce a new sculpture at 10th Avenue Square, a site on the High Line that offers a secret view of the Statue of Liberty. Often overlooked in lieu of the other arresting urban vistas found in the park, this southerly-facing spot houses an oversized nonfunctional bronze telescope, a sculpture that simultaneously brings attention to and makes the viewing of Lady Liberty impossible.

Punta della Dogana / François Pinault Foundation, Venice, presents "Slip of the Tongue", a collective exhibition curated by Danh Vo in collaboration with Caroline Bourgeois with a work by Elmgreen & Dragset until December 31, 2015.

PLATEAU, Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul, will organize a solo exhibition by Elmgreen & Dragset entitled "Aéroport Mille Plateaux" from July 22 to October 18, 2015.

Michael Elmgreen was born in Copenhagen, Denmark; Ingar Dragset was born in Trondheim, Norway. They live and work in Berlin and London..

SOLO EXHIBITIONS (selection)

- 2015** "Aéroport Mille Plateaux" PLATEAU, Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea, July 22 - October 18, 2015
- 2014** "Elmgreen & Dragset: Biography", Astrup Fearnley Museet, Oslo, Norway; "Elmgreen & Dragset: Biography", Statens Museum for Kunst, Copenhagen, Denmark; "The Old World", Galerie Perrotin, Hong Kong
- 2013** "Tomorrow", Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK; curators of "A Space Called Public", Munich, Germany
- 2013-2012** "The Fourth Plinth 2012", Trafalgar Square, London, UK
- 2012** "The Critic", Galleri Nicolai Wallner, Copenhagen, Denmark; "Omnes Una Manet Nox", Louis Vuitton Flagship Store, London, UK; "Happy Days in the Art World", The Royal Danish Theatre, Copenhagen, Denmark/Bergen International Festival, Bergen, Norway; "Harvest", Victoria Miro, London, UK; "Han", Kulturværftet Helsingør, Denmark
- 2011** "Elmgreen & Dragset", Thorvaldsens Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark; "Happy Days in the Art World", Performa 11, New York / The Tramway, Glasgow, UK; "The One & The Many" Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Submarine Wharf, Rotterdam, Netherlands; "The Afterlife of the Mysterious Mr. B.", Galerie Perrotin, Paris, France; "Amigos", Galería Helga de Alvear, Madrid, Spain; "It's Never Too Late to Say Sorry", Sculpture International Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Netherlands; "Silent wishes and broken dreams", Bayerische Staatsoper, Munich, Germany
- 2010** "Celebrity - The One & The Many", Museum für neue kunst am ZKM I Zentrum für Kunst und Medientechnologie, Karlsruhe, Germany
- 2009** "Drama Queens", Centre Pompidou, Paris, France; "Supermodels", Taka Ishii Gallery, Tokyo, Japan; curators of "The Collectors", Danish and Nordic Pavilions, 53rd Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy; "Trying to Remember What We Once Wanted to Forget", Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Castilla y León, León, Spain
- 2008** "Side Effects", Galerie Perrotin, Paris, France; "Too Late", Victoria Miro, London, UK; "Drama Queens", Theater Basel, Basel/Old Vic Theatre, London, UK; "Home is the Place You Left", Trondheim Kunstmuseum, Trondheim; "Gedenkort für die im Nazionalsozialismus verfolgten Homosexuellen", Berlin, Germany
- 2007** "This Is The First Day of My Life", Malmö Kunsthall, Malmö, Sweden; "Ti sto pensando", Villa Manin, Centre for Contemporary Art, Passariano, Italy; "A Change Of Mind", Museion Bozen, Bolzano, Italy
- 2006** "Disgrace", Galerie Perrotin, Miami, USA; "The Incidental Self", Taka Ishii Gallery, Tokyo, Japan; "Would You Like Your Eggs A Little Different This Morning?", Galleria Massimo De Carlo, Milan, Italy; "The Welfare Show", Serpentine Gallery, London / The Power Plant, Toronto, Canada
- 2005** "Prada Marfa", Art Production Fund / Ballroom Marfa, Marfa, Texas, USA; "The Brightness of Shady Lives", Galería Helga de Alvear, Madrid, Spain; "End Station", Bohem Foundation, New York, USA; "The Welfare Show", Bergen Kunsthall, Bergen / BAWAG Foundation, Vienna, Austria; "Forgotten Baby", Wrong Gallery, New York, USA; "Linienstrasse 160, Neue Mitte", Galerie Klosterfelde, Berlin, Germany
- 2004** "Intervention 37", Sprengel Museum, Hannover, Germany; "Blocking The View", Level 2 Gallery, Tate Modern, London, UK; "Moving Energies-Aspekte der Sammlung Olbricht: Michael Elmgreen & Ingar Dragset," Museum Folkwang, Essen, Germany
- 2003** "Paris Diaries", Galerie Perrotin, Paris, France; "Constructed Catastrophes", Center for Contemporary Art, Kitakyushu, Japan; "Phone Home", Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York, USA; "Short Cut", Fondazione Nicola Trussardi, Milan, Italy; "Spaced Out", Portikus, Frankfurt am Main, Germany; "Please, keep quiet!", Galleri Nicolai Wallner, Copenhagen, Denmark; "Don't leave me this way", Galerie Perrotin, Paris, France
- 2002** "How Are You Today", Galleria Massimo De Carlo, Milan, Italy; "Powerless Structures, Fig. 229", Galería de Alvear, Madrid, Spain; "Museum", Sala Montcada/Fundació La Caixa, Barcelona, Spain; "Suspended Space", Taka Ishii Gallery, Tokyo, Japan; Centro Galego de Arte Contemporánea, Santiago de Compostela, Spain; Museu de Arte da Pampulha, Belo Horizonte, Brazil
- 2001** "Taking Place", Kunsthalle Zürich, Zürich, Germany; "Opening Soon", Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York, USA; "A Room Defined by its Accessibility", Statens Museum for Kunst, Copenhagen, Denmark; Galleri Nicolai Wallner, Copenhagen, Denmark; "Linienstrasse 160", Klosterfelde, Berlin, Germany; "Powerless Structures, Fig. 111", Portikus, Frankfurt, Germany; Galleri Index, Stockholm, Sweden
- 2000** "Zwischen anderen Ereignissen", Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany; Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney, Australia
- 1999** Galleri Nicolai Wallner, Copenhagen, Denmark; "Powerless Structures, Fig. 57-60", The Project, New York, USA
- 1998** "Dug Down Gallery / Powerless Structures, Fig. 45", Galleri i8 & Reykjavik Art Museum, Reykjavik, Iceland
- 1997** "To Ken Ishii...", Galleri Struts, Oslo, Norway; "Powerless Structures", Gallery Campbells Occasionally, Copenhagen, Denmark; "12 Hours of White Paint", Galleri Tommy Lund, Odense, Denmark

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (selection)

- 2015** "Panorama", High Line Art, New York, USA, April 23, 2015 - March 2016; "Slip of the Tongue", Punta Della Dogana, François Pinault Foundation, Venice, Italy, April 12 - December 31, 2015; "Infinite Eternity", Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina, March 18 - June 8, 2015; "All the World's a Stage. Works from the Goetz Collection", Fundación Banco Santander, Madrid, Spain, February 20 - June 14, 2015; "No Hablaremos de Picasso", Palacio Municipal Kiosko Alfonso, A Coruña, Spain, February 19 - April 26, 2015
- 2014** "Passions secrètes", Tripostal, Lille, France; "As I run and run, happiness comes closer," Hotel Beaubrun, Paris, France; "From Power to People", KØS, Copenhagen, Denmark; "GOLD," Bass Museum of Art, Miami, USA; "Late Harvest", Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, USA; "Man in the Mirror", Vanhaerents Art Collection, Brussels, Belgium
- 2013** "Happy Birthday: Galerie Perrotin / 25 Years", Tripostal, Lille3000, Lille, France; "Mom, am I barbarian?", 13th Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2012** "Hospitality", Liverpool Biennial, Liverpool, UK; "Common Ground", Public Art Fund, City Hall Park, New York, USA
- 2011** "The Global Contemporary. Art Worlds After 1989", ZKM I Center for Art and Media, Karlsruhe, Germany
- 2010** "New Décor", Hayward Gallery, London, UK; "Contemplating the Void: Interventions in the Guggenheim Museum", Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA

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