

GALLERI BO BJERGGAARD

PRESS RELEASE

Erik Steffensen

Et år / A Year

02.11.2018 – 12.01.2019

It is with great pleasure that Galleri Bo Bjerggaard presents the exhibition *Et år / A Year* with photographs by the Danish artist Erik Steffensen. This is Steffensen's sixth solo exhibition at Galleri Bo Bjerggaard, and it is being presented in the gallery's east-facing exhibition space.

Erik Steffensen works with photography in a painterly fashion, and in his new exhibition *A Year*, he shows how colour photographs, in their pigmented quality, may be viewed like impressionistic snapshots.

Steffensen takes particular inspiration from the Golden Age artist Johan Thomas Lundbye, born 200 years ago, Lundbye worked with a similar lightness in his landscape paintings, even before the birth of photography. In his drawings, Lundbye was kaleidoscopic in his choice of motif: plants, animals, caves and gnomes were all equal elements in his art. He recorded his impressions in his diary *Et Aar af mit Liv* ('A Year In My Life'). It is evident from the pictorial journey of *A Year* that Erik Steffensen is familiar with both art history, method and the beauty of nature.

Steffensen's motifs are taken from journeys, without being travel photographs, and home in Denmark, without being private pictures. There are motifs from as far away as Patagonia, Japan and the Himalayas, and from as near at hand as the artist's studio in the former Værløse air force base and his home in southern Stevns. *A Year* thus consists of a series of images, each of which has its own weight and raw aesthetic message.

Erik Steffensen was born in Valby in 1961, and graduated from the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen, in 1992, where he was also appointed professor from 1998-2007. He lives and works in Vemmetofte, Værløse and Læsø.

Steffensen is among others represented in the following collections: Arken – Museum of Modern Art, Ishøj (DK), ARoS, Aarhus (DK), Chase Manhattan, New York (US), Fotomuseum Winterthur, Winterthur (CH), Heart – Herning Museum of Contemporary Art, Herning (DK), Kristinehamns Konstmuseum, Kristinehamn (SE), Louisiana – Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk (DK), the National Gallery, Copenhagen (DK). For the exhibition, a catalogue is being published with a text by Museum Curator Naja Rasmussen.

All are welcome to attend the **opening reception, which will take place on Friday 2 November from 5.00-7.00 pm**. For further information, and to obtain photographic material, contact Jeanette Lindholdt Madsen by e-mail at Jeanette@bjerggaard.com or tel. +45 3141 7069.