



Astrid Svangren, *Untitled*, 2019 (model detail). Photo: Malle Madsen

## ASTRID SVANGREN

*Mystery and dream / the self in constant resolution / the words and the colors / cries out who she is / deathly tired / lies ahead / explains / dismisses / elastic envelope / poetic documentation / the red paper like a knot on the wall / traces of clothing / its own orbit / open sculptures / a play / ritual / glittering and painful / a longing to understand*

**MAY 8<sup>th</sup> – JUNE 30<sup>th</sup> 2019**

Exhibition opening: 17.00 on May 7th

Swedish visual artist Astrid Svangren creates a total installation in Gammel Holtegaard's meticulous architecture and symmetrically landscaped garden combining surprising materials in a decadent and sensuous dialogue with the body and its surroundings.

In Gammel Holtegaard's Baroque architecture and garden Swedish artist Astrid Svangren (b. 1972) has created a total installation in her largest solo exhibition in Denmark to date.

Svangren's artwork at Gammel Holtegaard takes the form of a perpetually changing landscape. The materials cascade from the ceiling, landing on the floor as formations that bend and billow as if flowing in and out of the building.

The artist transforms Gammel Holtegaard into a vast, three-dimensional painting. Svangren dissolves the traditional painted canvas hanging on a wall, occupying and transforming the galleries and garden into a total installation - a painting we can step inside and be physically enveloped by.

Astrid Svangren combines natural elements such as dried flowers, feathers and wood with synthetic materials like plastic, tulle and cellophane in a swirling current. The materials are unassuming, but in Svangren's art they merge in surprising ways to form expressive constellations where the sensory and poetic are in focus. A borderless terrain of colour, materials and form emerges, the transitory nature of which creates the sense of coming into being or being on the edge of disintegration.

An encounter with Svangren's perfumed, insistent yet gossamer universe activates the senses and evokes memories. As reflected in the long, poetic title of her installation at Gammel Holtegaard, her works are never unequivocal. Svangren's title represents yet another realm of association, creating a linguistic picture for the viewer to sense in the enclosing exhibition.

At first glance Svangren's artwork is a stark contrast to Gammel Holtegaard's symmetrical Baroque complex. Whilst her installation is as meticulous and elegant as the topiary in the Baroque parterre garden, it is also more raw, more random, and more transient. In the garden at Gammel Holtegaard, on the other hand, nothing has been left to chance. Spending the time it takes to let mind and body wander in and out of Svangren's landscape can however, open the senses to the relationship between the Baroque and the work of the artist. Both are a cornucopia of sensual detail and decadence, yet both also demonstrate restraint and control. A fruitful interaction between the contemporary and the Baroque unfolds as they challenge and enrich each other across centuries of history and aesthetic styles.

### **About the Artist**

Astrid Svangren (b. 1972 in Gothenburg) lives and works in Copenhagen. She graduated from Malmö Art Academy in 1998, and has previously exhibited at Moderna Museet, Bonniers Konsthall, Nordic Watercolour Museum and KUNSTHALLE São Paulo.

Svangren's works are represented in numerous major collections in Scandinavia, including SMK (National Gallery of Denmark), Moderna Museet, the Danish Arts Foundation, and the New Carlsberg Foundation. In 2014 Svangren was awarded the Danish Arts Foundation's three-year working grant. Her solo exhibition *In original violet / influenced transparent / feeling emerald / affected by honey yellow / worker bee / under influence of chestnut red / singing pastel dust* at Christian Andersen's gallery in 2017 also received an award from the Danish Art Council.

### **Events Programme**

The exhibition has inspired a broad programme of events. These include an artist's talk with Astrid Svangren in dialogue with curator at Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Marie Laurberg. The musician and author Jomi Message will put music and words to Svangren's exhibition, and exhibition curator Marie Oxholm Zigler will take visitors through the installation and talk about the process behind it. There will also be regular Art og Garden Walks throughout the run of the exhibition. All events are in Danish.

Read more about our events programme at [www.gjholtegaard.dk](http://www.gjholtegaard.dk).

### **Exhibition Opening**

You are cordially invited to the exhibition opening from 17.00-20.00 on Tuesday May 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### **17.15**

- Maria Gadegaard, Director of Gammel Holtegaard, says welcome and introduces the exhibition
- Cellist Josefine Opsahl plays classical music

Gammel Holtegaard invites you to join us for French bubbles, Indian dahl and colored fountains in the beautiful Baroque garden.

We look forward to seeing you!

### **Exhibition Period**

The exhibition opening is from 17.00-20.00 on Tuesday May 7<sup>th</sup>.

The exhibition runs from May 8<sup>th</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2019.

The exhibition is open Tuesday-Sunday from 12.00-17.00, Thursday from 12.00-20.00.

Closed Monday.

#### Public holidays:

Friday May 17<sup>th</sup>, 9 & 10 June from 12.00-17.00

Thursday May 30<sup>th</sup> from 12.00-20.00

### **Press**

For more information please do not hesitate to contact Communications Officer Nina Peitersen at [ninp@rudersdal.dk](mailto:ninp@rudersdal.dk) or on +45 45 80 08 78.

Press materials can be downloaded [here](#)

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