

BUBBLY BAROQUE – Contemporary Art in the Baroque Garden



Lilibeth Cuenca Rasmussen, *Looping the Hoop*, (2023). Photo: Bjarke Johansen

LOOPING THE HOOP

Lilibeth Cuenca Rasmussen

14th April – 26th October 2023

Exhibition opening: Thursday 13th April, 5-7pm

With particular focus on the concepts of time and cycles, artist Lilibeth Cuenca Rasmussen has created a site-specific work with the title *Looping the Hoop* for Gl. Holtegaard's enormous Baroque garden.

Time is equivocal and difficult to grasp fully. More specifically, time is the seconds, minutes and hours that pass. Time encapsulates events and provides us with a means of navigation. For millennia, philosophers and scientists have suggested different concepts of what time actually is. But time is still something that causes us to reflect.

One of the major missions of the Baroque era was to remind us that time is limited and that we should therefore reflect carefully on how to lead our lives. Cuenca Rasmussen has delved into the symbolic world of the Baroque era and settled on the hourglass, a symbol of transience used frequently in the period, a so-called vanitas symbol. The hourglass symbolizes the transience of life and reminds us that our time on earth is not eternal – that every grain of sand that runs out represents the countdown of life. In Cuenca Rasmussen's works, the ominous vanitas symbol of the hourglass is transformed into a life-affirming cyclical undertaking. The upwards and downwards movements of the grains of sand become a sign of return, emergence and change.

A life-size, rotatable, mouth-blown hourglass stands at the center of the main axis of the Baroque garden, like a foreign sculptural object that has just landed. The hourglass, which

can be activated by the guests, visualizes time and makes it something that one can relate to and control physically and directly. In the western world, we usually orient ourselves towards a forward-moving and linear time. This hourglass can be turned around to both sides. This makes time a cyclical, dynamic and repetitive entity. The midpoint of the sculpture, where the sand runs from one glass to the other, becomes a focal point where the gaze is captured. But does this time become a period of waiting, time travel, or a much-needed hypnotic moment for reflection?

The circular shape and the cyclical are also consistent elements in Cuenca Rasmussen's video work, which is shown on a screen in the garden. From above, we see a section of Gl. Holtegaard's Baroque garden where a female figure with swinging hula hoops becomes a spinning circular element that spirals into the highly symmetrical garden plan. In the black-and-white rendering of the garden, the contrasts become clearer, and the circles from the hula hoops seem to activate the garden. Hula hoops are scattered around the garden, as scenographic components intended for visitors to the site. It is an invitation from the artist to occupy the garden, set the hula hoop in motion and forget about time for a while. Cuenca Rasmussen invites us all to play and to participate in the loop. Another characteristic of Baroque gardens, in addition to the perfect symmetry, are unexpected features like planted archways and labyrinths that you can get lost in. Playfulness and fun are therefore always present in Baroque gardens. With equal parts earnestness and playfulness, Lilibeth Cuenca Rasmussen thus inscribes herself with the work *Looping the Hoop* into the spirit of Baroque horticultural art.

BIO

Lilibeth Cuenca Rasmussen (b. 1970) is Danish/Filipino and lives and works in Copenhagen. She graduated from The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in 2002. Her works are broadly represented at Danish as well as international museums including: The National Gallery of Denmark, HEART Museum of Contemporary Art, Malmö Konstmuseum and KIASMA Museum of Modern Art (Helsinki). In 2008 Cuenca Rasmussen was awarded the Eckersberg Medaljen and in 2023 she was awarded the New Carlsberg Foundation's Artist Award. She participated in the performance festival Performa09 in New York and exhibited at the Danish Pavilion at the Venice Biennale in 2011.

In her artistic work, Lilibeth Cuenca Rasmussen often deals with questions of ethnicity, identity, gender rituals and belonging. Over time, she has developed a significant and performative expression in which music, costumes, scenography and sculptural elements play a significant role. Cuenca Rasmussen masters the challenging discipline of incorporating performances into larger installation and sculptural constellations, so that they also function as complete exhibitions, even without the performative part being activated.

BUBBLY BAROQUE – Contemporary Art in the Baroque Garden

Bubbly Baroque – Contemporary Art in the Baroque Garden is a three-year exhibition trilogy in which Gl. Holtegaard has invited Danish artists of international standing to work individually with creating a site-specific project for the Baroque garden. The art projects are intended as an interventionist and poetic interplay as well as a contrast to the history and spirit of the over 30.000 m² Baroque garden. The first in the series is artist Lilibeth Cuenca Rasmussen with the work *Looping the Hoop*. In 2024 you can experience artist Nina Beier and in 2025 the art group SUPERFLEX.

EVENT PROGRAMME

During the exhibition period *Looping the Hoop* will be activated through performance. Check our [website](#) for more information. Most events are in Danish.

EXHIBITION DATES

The exhibition runs from Friday 14th April until Sunday October 26th inclusive.

NEW Opening hours

Tuesday-Friday: 12-5pm, Thursday: 12-8pm, Saturday-Sunday: 10am-5pm. Closed Monday.

PRESS PREVIEWS AND CONTACT

Individual press views can be booked from Thursday 13th April.

For more information about the exhibition, event programme or previews please contact:

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You can [download press material and photos here](#).

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