

RONI HORN: PORTRAIT OF AN IMAGE

7 September – 14 September 2019, Intervention in public space.



Installation view: Roni Horn, *Portrait of an Image (with Isabelle Huppert)*, 2005/2013.
Courtesy Roni Horn and Peder Lund © Roni Horn, Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt. Photo: Norbert Miguletz.

Peder Lund is proud to announce a photographic intervention in the public space of Oslo by the renowned American artist Roni Horn (1955-). From September 7-14, the city centre will be subtly infiltrated with motifs by the artist.

For more than 40 years, Horn has worked with a wide range of media, ranging from photography, drawing, sculptural installations and performance, to artist's books and text. Horn's work embodies matters such as the mutable nature of identity and that of the natural world, and the relationship between subject and object in perception of art and nature.

The artistic intervention *Portrait of an Image* is a variant, in temporary form, of the earlier work *Portrait of an Image (with Isabelle Huppert)* (2005), a photographic series which comprises 100 images in which Horn captured the face of the French actress reflecting a wide range of emotions. For the photographic series, Horn photographed Huppert in twenty sequences with five images each; in each sequence, the actress briefly slides into one of her earlier roles, so that her face expresses personalities that do not exist in reality but nevertheless offer stunning and seemingly intimate encounters.

The roles Huppert reenacted are solely based on her memory, and the short image sequences which have been taken just moments apart open a new perspective for the viewer in regards to the photographic medium and the genre of portraiture, of which we usually expect that one authentic image can reveal the essence of a subject. By contrast, Horn deftly shows that identity is complex and unstable; only if one is observant to all the variations and deviations that each exchange offers can a true encounter take place.

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For the intervention in Oslo, Horn selected 20 motifs of this series which will be displayed on digital advertising boards in the pedestrian zone at Aker Brygge and inside Oslo Central Station. They will appear and disappear numerous times during the day, creating a transient performance, similar to the memory-based enactment of Huppert, from which they originated, but now transitioning and evolving further in the mind of the recipient. Each time, they will be only visible for a few seconds, creating a random encounter with the art for everyone who passes by them. The intervention mirrors the everyday experience of the short, speechless collisions in the urban space, but offering an open and unfamiliar vulnerable face to read. In contrast to the advertising images that dominate the urban space, no explanatory text, title or comment will accompany the work. The images speak for themselves.



Map of the display of the work at Aker Brygge in Oslo, Norway.

Horn's numerous solo exhibitions include shows organised by the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles (1990); Kunstmuseum Winterthur (1993); Kunsthalle Basel and Kestnergesellschaft, Hannover (1995); Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris (1999); Dia Center for the Arts, New York (2001); Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris (2003); and Art Institute of Chicago (2004). A major retrospective titled *Roni Horn aka Roni Horn* was organised by Tate Modern, London, and travelled to Collection Lambert, Avignon, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, and the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston (2009-10). Her work has been exhibited in several Reykjavik venues, as well as in group exhibitions including the Whitney Biennial (1991 and 2004); Documenta 9 (1992), Venice Biennale (1997 and 2003); and Biennale of Sydney (1998 and 2014). Horn has received various awards, among them a Ford Foundation grant (1978), and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts (1984, 1986, and 1990) and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation (1990). In 2013, she was awarded the Joan Miró Prize. Horn's work is featured in numerous major international institutions and collections including the Guggenheim Museum, New York; Museum of Modern Art, New York; The Art Institute of Chicago; Tate Modern, London; Kunsthalle Hamburg; Kunsthau Zürich; and Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris. In 2019, the Menil Drawing Institute in Houston staged a two-part exhibition entitled *Roni Horn: When I Breathe, I Draw, Part I & Part II*.

For more information about this project please contact Susanne Stroh (artistic director).

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