

VIDA MUSEUM & KONSTHALL BORGHOLM- "TOBIAS BIRGERSSON"
SOLO SHOW-2019

Kungsholmens Täljargille

Over ten years ago now, I found myself suffering from a Crafters version of "Writers block". The way I managed to continue making was by leaving Metal and Metalcraft, my Identity and area of expertise. One of my closest friends and I formed "Kungsholmens Täljargille", a group of mostly non makers who met up once a week to whittle and carve wood. By removing my chosen Craft, material and result driven thinking I slowly unblocked my "Crafters Block"

In the beginning my pieces of wood ended up as woodchips but after a while a series of wooden Sunglasses came out of the project. The first one was loosely based on the bone Sun shades that the Inuits used to make and wear but the following series became different individual pieces with their own origins.



Photo by Christian Habetzeder

A piece of Alderwood and a knife was all it took for me to get back in the saddle and I never intended to make this wooden series of mine public. Röhsska Museet issued an open call for entry to "Konstlöjdsalongen 2009". Almost as an afterthought I decided to submit my first whittled pair of sunglasses under the MetalArt category. Malin Vessby wrote about the exhibition (link to complete article in the GUPEA form).

Loosely translated it reads – "Konstslöjdsalongen at Röhsska is intended to be an annual event. This year 520 people submitted their work and 50 were accepted."

"Konstslöjdsalongen på Röhsska är tänkt att återkomma årligen. Till denna första upplaga sökte 520 personer och verk av 50 antogs. Gott så."

"I feel the most joy when I look at Tobias Birgerssons squinting Alderwood sunglasses, whittled during four days. Form, material and expression surprises. They look like a crafters version of "The Phantoms" mask. As opposed to the majority of the objects included in the exhibition, Tobias piece will not be silenced by the visually noisy exhibition architecture."

"Gladast blir jag av Tobias Birgerssons kisande solglasögon i alträ, täljda på fyra dagar. Både form, material och uttryck överraskar. De ser ut som Fantomens brillor i slöjdtappning. Till skillnad från huvuddelen av övriga föremål kan inte ens utställningsarkitekturen hindra dem från att nå fram genom bruset."

Malin Vessby

form@dn.se



Photo by Christian Habetzeder

After "Konstslöjdsalong 2009" I closed the book on the series and stored them for the future.

VIDA MUSEUM&ARTHALL

VIDA approached me and asked me if I was interested in a Solo exhibition alongside the other exhibition openings during spring 2019, The LOD group 20 yrs, Designer Alexander Lervik & Eva Dahlgren and Painter Madeleine Hatz. I was already involved in Gallery LODs huge exhibition and decided to unpack my Wooden googles series for my Solo. I invited Portrait Photographer Christian Habetzeder to collaborate with me. Christian has supported and worked with me since the early 90s. Over the years he has had many different roles – Graphical Designer, Bookbinder, long distance driver, professional Photographer, Sounding board and voice of reason. Christian is now a Portrait Photographer by trade and really wanted to add that skill to my VIDA Solo exhibition. We created a series of Portraits to be exhibited alongside my “Kungsholmens Täljargille” pieces.

The first whittled pieces came from my gut and hands without much conscious thought, they were not originally meant to meet the public eye. Christian wanted to work with the wooden glasses and me as a model to visualize how I, the maker, interacted with my pieces to be able to assess them better. The pieces were meant to be worn, they needed a body. Although Christian and I had the original intention to depict the glasses as a series of serious Portraits, we soon discovered that it was impossible to avoid an element of humor. I would say that some read them as humorous while most read them as “Art Photography”. The fact that they were on display at a Museum probably had something to do with how they were perceived by the public.



Photo by Christian Habetzeder



Photo by Christian Habetzeder



Photo by Christian Habetzeder.



Photo by Christian Habetzeder.



Photo by ChristianHabetzeder.



Photo by Christian Habetzeder.



Photo by Christian Habetzeder.

Exhibition

I choose to incorporate pieces from my other series that had a connection to Wood. The LOD 20 Years exhibition that ran parallel to my Solo had elements of a retro perspective exhibition as well as presenting new work. I choose to connect my Solo to the larger exhibition by presenting work from an extended period of my artistic activity as well as previously unpublished work. The older pieces have previously been shown at, Örnköldsviks Konsthall, Swe, "Answering Pravu" Munic, Ger, The Hallwyl Museum, Swe and more.

Here follows some images from the exhibition space at VIDA Museum&Arthall.

“Wishing Well” Sherry wood, Bamboo, Lacquer, Steel and Brass.



Photo by Christian Habetzeder.



Photo by Christian Habetzeder.

“Answering Pravu III”



Photo by Christian Habetzeder.



Photo by Christian Habetzeder.