

## About the exhibition

The Fagerstedt Gallery have the honor to inaugurate the newly established gallery with the group exhibition

### OBSERVATIONS

Jårg Geismar  
per Kesselmar  
Hyun-Jin Kwak  
maiija Savolainen

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Elisabeth Fagerstedt is deeply rooted in the Swedish art scene for many years as director of art institutions, as a curator, consultant and writer. Now opens FAGERSTEDT GALLERY with a group exhibition that sets the tone for the profile "Observations" - Swedish and international contemporary art of deeply original and distinctive artists. Gallery Fagerstedt will continue to show both established artists and introduce new names. The gallery is in an interesting geographical location at Hålsingegatan 18 - both in Stockholm's main gallery district and right next to the upcoming new commuter rail station and new metro upturn at Vanadisplan.

### OBSERVATIONS

The exhibition shows selected works by four of the gallery's artists. Elisabeth Fagerstedt has curated it and has had a focus on artistic observations in time and in geography. The selected works show a breadth of contemporary painting, photography, drawing and objects.

JÅRG GEISMARS work shows traces of his life and work, places where he has lived, material he has worked with, physical material remains of his life. His large collection of newspapers from different places and times, thin exquisite piece of paper that he has collected from countries as France and the United States as well as the packaging of the concrete with which he found sculptures in his studio in Dusseldorf in Germany may, in all its apparent simplicity to represent his life. They represent his personal memories and he has signed on them and signed them. The works have a surface layer of varnish, they have been sealed and historified, they have been separated from continuing to be everyday things, and now new observation points with its own embedded narratives.

HYUN-JIN KWAKS work is narrative and observing. It is a powerful document of a place with traces of an old man's manic collecting. A man lives his life in a fantastic palace in the middle of Reggio Emilia in Italy. His collection of objects from around the world, from his travels and from his life, kept in the building and gradually transforms into a living palace ruin, his collection has gone haywire. The work is part of a series titled *The Island - A Case Study of a Collector's Mind*.

MAIJA Savolainen's landscape photographs is a story of a trip and a scientific observation. Photo documents have been stored in a variety of exposures into a single image, from 10 different locations but with the same motive. Under the surface, layer by layer, is where the image of sunrise at a predetermined location at a predetermined time. The works appear as monochrome paintings. They are printed on high quality paper instead of photo paper and it reinforces the tactile and painterly expression.

She began her journey on the first day at the geographic point latitude N 45'54 'at sunrise. She then moved a total of 2 000 km from north to south for ten days, to the geographic point latitude N 29'42'. Every day became that way as long, 12 hours 24 minutes and 7 seconds, and she put the experience of day and night changes the amount of time from day to day. She was thus still in time but was in constant motion. Like photography itself, which is said to freeze time, she broke her own sense of time. She rose with the sun.

The works are part of a series of nine works by title *12h 24min 7s - Standing Still in Motion*. She works primarily with photography and are deeply fascinated to observe and portray light phenomena and

human perception.

PER KESSELMARS minimalist painting interact with and challenge our vision, it allowed us to observe the room, the surfaces, the light and shadows in this place, right now. He has experimented with the white paint in several layers of different shades. Ultimately, nuanced and balanced, he has painted surfaces of lead or iron and has let reflection, reflections and shadow formations extend the works on the wall and the room and tease the eye. Here we need to give vision the time it needs; surfaces that speak to each other, the colors appearing on the retina, movements ... everything emerges eventually for those who observe carefully.

#### MORE ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Jårg Geismar** born in Gotland 1958, he lives and works in Düsseldorf, Germany and has lived and worked in Tokyo and in New York for long periods. He has, among other things studied at the Düsseldorf Academy of Art (1986) and at The New School of Social Research and Parsons School of Design in New York (1988). Since 1995 he is a visiting professor and lecturer at several art academies in Europe, Asia and the USA. He is the founder of ATW - Around the World (1985), a global forum for interdisciplinary exchange. Since 1980, he has extensive international artistic activities with exhibitions at museums worldwide, numerous awards and scholarships. He is a well established artist in the international art scene. He was presented to the Swedish audience in 2003 with the major exhibition *The Optimists* on Liljevalchs.

His artistic breadth, width and depth is impossible to categorize. And difficult to predict. Events in the present, the site's expressions, available materials, all this together and act portrayed in his works. One can still assume that there is always a social commitment, an interest in human life and interpersonal relationships. This seemingly simple and mundane reassessed and re-materialize in Geismar work.

**Per Kesselmar** born in 1960 in Stockholm, where he lives and works. He studied at the Royal College of Art (1990) and at the Valand Art Academy (1986). He has worked with many solo exhibitions in Sweden since 1993, has received several awards, including the Academy, and is represented by Swedish museums, including the Museum of Modern Art in Stockholm. He is one of Sweden's foremost painters in the minimalist genre. His work is subtle and poetic, they speak whisper quiet but has a tendency to grow and expand over time.

**Hyun-Jin Kwak** born in Seoul, Korea in 1974, she lives and works in Stockholm. She has studied at Hong-Ik University in Seoul and has continuing education programs from Konstfack in Stockholm and UIAH in Helsinki. Since 1998, she has had a lot of separate exhibitions at museums, art centers and galleries worldwide. She has received numerous scholarships and awards and is represented in museum collections in Europe and in South Korea. She received great attention in Sweden when she was 10 years ago showed the series *Girls in Uniform* with staged photography. Kwak works primarily with just stagings and the camera is her main tool. Her themes have an underlying psychology. There is always something more beneath the surface. There may be people who engineer a situation that we can not fully understand at a place in nature, or an abandoned architecture that can be difficult to categorize. Maybe there is a hidden agreement between persons who act in the scene. As a viewer, we are excluded from the overall understanding and we can feel the uncertainty, we are moving in a quagmire. We begin to interpret and guess with the help of our own preferences. It is similar to the process behind understanding a new language or a new culture. In the work of *The Island - A Case Study of a Collector's Mind* works Kwak parallel staged and documentary photography. The book of the same name is constructed in the same way, some have documentary texts and images, and another is fictional.

**Maija Savolainen** was born in Finland and lives and works in Helsinki. She has her artistic degree from Alvar Aalto University in Helsinki (2013) with a focus photography. She has participated in numerous group exhibitions and photo festivals since 2010 and has received awards and scholarships. Her artistic work is various forms of photographic studies in light phenomenon and she also has a scientific interest. She has an ability to see the poetic in science and mathematics. Her art is a cross-pollination of thought and feeling, camera and brush, words and images, facts and poetry.