

SHADOW OF GARDEN

MEHRDAD AFSARI

VANESSA BAIRD

AMIRHOSSEIN BAYANI

OMID BAZMANDEGAN

HARALD FENN

MARIT JUSTINE HAUGEN

KAIA HUGIN

ALI NASSIR

With a special tribute to Mona Nordås

Amirhossein Bayani, Out of Context



Welcome to opening!

Friday June 16th, 18:00 at 3,14

Several of the artists will be present

Curated by:

Malin Barth, Orkideh Daroodi, Sissel Lillebostad, Alireza Bayat

Through painting, drawing, photography, video and sculpture the exhibition "Shadow of Garden" presents 8 significant artists. They all, in their unique way, take a closer look at how we see and understand ourselves in relation to others, as well as how we would like to be seen under different given circumstances.

Metaphorically speaking we live in our respective gardens: Norway's self-image as one of the best countries to live in, The Islamic republic of Iran as a garden where the right faith is being cultivated. The undertaking of both regimes is to keep the garden intact. Not to weed it out, keep it manageable. Under these circumstances, the shadow, representing chaotic forces, is seen as unwanted and threatening.

The exhibition explores this complex topic within the present socio-political situation, which is tarnished by distress and anxiety related to unpredictability, but where we also find optimism and energy to solve these issues. The exhibition presents a closer look at the shade we create and how we through art perceive this position. The exhibition developed from the recognition of Iran's and Norway's common cultural roots regarding the garden, but it expanded to include the split between the secluded garden and the indifferent wilderness.

The existence of a shadow points to the presence of a walled enclosure, the fact that the garden is regulated and for many, inaccessible. The shadow is a place marked with separation and desperate desire. To be in

somebody's shadow is also a metaphor for dependency, understood as not having an autonomous existence. When you live in the shadow you are invisible: to history and power.

The curatorial project «Shadow of garden» stems from two exchange visits between the Iranian and Norwegian curators. The first meeting happened in spring 2015, around the time when loosening of sanctions against Iran were still some time away. The next happened when the international community – which in this context means the western – relaxed their sanctions and it again after many years of absence became possible to have economical relations. This can be interpreted as a thermometer, measuring the temperature on potential collaborations. During this following period the temperature has gone up and down, at the moment when this text is written – as cooling even. It remains to be seen if the cooling process will be embraced by Europe or if the released relations will continue to be eased.

So, what were our common denominators? And how to move beyond the big political image and too well known narratives? This exhibition hands out some possible answers through the different artists' approaches and individual versions.

The exhibition received support from OCA.

Shadow of Garden will also be shown in Tehran, Iran, from October 27th. [www.stiftelsen314.com/AiR_exchange.htm] [kooshkresidency.com]

PARABOL - the parabolic loudspeaker at 3,14:

UTSPILL is a collective work with contributions by local artist in Bergen, that will be playing over the next exhibition periods. It will expand as a work in progress, as more artists provide 3,14 with their explorations in sound about how we should relate to the fact that we live in a post-factual era. The participating artists will be listed continuously at 3,14 and on the web site. [www.stiftelsen314.com/sound.htm]

Participating artists:

- Eleanor Clare "We Witness", 00:59min, 2017 [www.eleanorclare.com]
- Jane Sverdrupsen og Alvar Sverdrupsen "Bare et barn", 01:06min, 2017 [www.janesverdrupsen.com]
- Bjørg Taranger Sound track for video work "Work for the... a better future", 01min, 2015 [www.cityangel.no]
- Samuel Brzeski "We are in time", 01min, 2017 [www.samuelbrzeski.com]
- Daniella Ramos Arias "Untitled", 01min, 2017 [danielaramosarias.com]

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