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JAKOB OKSBJERG TO THE END OF REALITY MARCH 4 – APRIL 2. 2022

A central point of interest in the practice of Jakob Oksbjerg are the ways stories establish our sense of reality. In this exhibition Oksbjerg reflects on the behavior of humankind as storytelling beings. This behavior is perceived as being deeply embedded in human beings, and as much part of our contemporary society, as it was at the height of the ancient Egyptian empire.

In Oksbjerg's paintings and sculptures mythical tales from a parallel reality unfold, clarifying the way the stories we are told transform into our perception of reality.

His work suggests that mankind's formation of realities are easier discerned through mythical stories, but are as much at play in our time's digital culture and data political era. He thus comments on a contemporary tendency where we uncritically internalize narratives in diverse arrays of media technologies. Instead, he wishes his works to act as a reminder for all of us to take back agency and be mindful of the way discourses influence our perception of reality.

Oksbjerg wishes for us all to consider "Do we accept the terms and conditions of our own reality?"

Faxe-based artist Jakob Oksbjerg works primarily within the medium of painting although he also incorporates elements of wood-carving, soft-sculpture and textile production into his practice. Frequently deriving the imagery for his works from extended periods of meditation, or from oneiric visions experienced in the form of distorted memories, Oksbjerg's paintings demonstrate a broad interest in mythic symbolism and pre-historical methods of signification. Whilst his approach is often rigorously methodical, the artist also embraces his intuition and at times allows his compositions to be wholly guided by de-rationalised impulse.

Oksbjerg's approach to the figure is largely archetypal and unidentified men and women often appear situated within expansive and atmospheric landscapes. The artist favours an expressive approach towards colour and much of his work is grounded in a quietly intense palette of earth tones, lush vegetative greens and pulsing ultramarines. An ambition towards holiness, or at least a strong impression of spirituality is consistently detectable and Oksbjerg has at-times evoked overtly Christian iconography (albeit flittered through an abstract visual lens).

More recent works have engaged with semi-fictional narratives surrounding the archeological discovery of several mysterious artifecacts; re-imaginging the appearance of these largely undocumented objects throught a process of "para-psychological" visualisation, Oksbjerg's practice foregrounds the influential power of the human body as a tool for projection and manifestation.

Jakob Oksbjerg (b. 1985) is self-taugh The artist lives and works in Faxe, Denmark.