

*I Sing The Body Electric*

A solo exhibition by Mathias Malling Mortensen

Opening: March 7, 2025, 5-8 PM

Exhibition period: March 7 - April 12, 2025

Press release

Bricks Gallery is pleased to present *I Sing the Body Electric*, a solo exhibition by Mathias Malling Mortensen, with an opening reception on Friday, March 7, 5-8 PM. Spanning the entire gallery, this marks his third solo show with us and features a sensory installation that transforms the space into a rhythmic interplay of form, movement, and sound. In addition, a new series of framed paper cut-outs and oil paintings on canvas is presented.

With this exhibition, Mathias Malling Mortensen takes the next step in his artistic practice. His autumn exhibition at Esbjerg Kunstmuseum was rooted in paper and in his connection to his artist-grandfather, Richard Mortensen. Now, we are no longer confined to the two-dimensional surface of paper, nor bound by family heritage. Malling Mortensen embarks on a new chapter in his artistic narrative, inviting us on a journey across paper cutouts, paintings, and a sensory, vibrant space where fragments break free from their flat surface to take on form and come alive.

*To be surrounded by beautiful, curious, breathing, laughing flesh is enough<sup>1</sup>*

In the exhibition, five sculptures – creatures – crafted from paper, plaster, wax, and other materials hang. Forms from earlier works have been reassembled, stitched together, and reshaped into new bodies. Mary Shelley's Frankenstein lingers in these sculptures – just as Victor Frankenstein brings his creation to life through electricity, Malling Mortensen revives his lines and structures, allowing them to emerge in a new form.

The exhibition title, *I Sing the Body Electric*, nods both to Walt Whitman's poetic celebration of the body and to the electricity that, in Shelley's novel, brings the inanimate to life. The electric current becomes tangible in the soundscape composed by Simon Dokkedal. He has imbued each sculpture with its own tone, its own electronic circuit. Together, the sculptures form a choir that releases deep metallic tones and soft, rippling noise. The sounds weave in and out of one another, sometimes aligning in fleeting harmony before falling apart again – a dark, vibrating chorus of disjointed voices.

We are constantly shaping and reshaping our worlds, our bodies, our identities, our technologies. *I Sing the Body Electric* insists on eternal motion. Like Frankenstein's creation, we exist in a state of constant transition – between the old and the new. The artist takes the next step in his practice; stepping out of one form and into another is always a risk – for the artist, for society, for the world. The outlines of what lies ahead are still unclear, with a transition already underway. Again and again, we sing ourselves and the world into being.

*Examine these limbs, red, black, or white, they are cunning in tendon and nerve<sup>2</sup>*

Text by Majken Overgaard

Installation sound by Simon Dokkedal

<sup>1</sup>Walt Whitman, "I Sing the Body Electric"

<sup>2</sup>*Ibid.*

*Mathias Malling Mortensen (b. 1980) is a self-taught artist living and working in Copenhagen, Denmark. His work is grounded in a long-term project of spatial research, which has influenced his approach to artmaking. Malling Mortensen's works has been exhibited both in Denmark and internationally. Recent exhibitions include 'Alt det som ikke er' at Esbjerg Kunstmuseum (2024, DK), Twelve Rooms at Bricks Gallery (2023, DK), and Inner Sound at SARP (2021, IT).*

## Pressemeddelelse

Bricks Gallery er glade for at præsentere *I Sing the Body Electric*, en soloudstilling af Mathias Malling Mortensen, med fernisering fredag den 7. marts, kl. 17-20. Udstillingen breder sig over hele galleriet og markerer hans tredje soloudstilling hos os – den byder på en sanselig installation, der forvandler gallerirummet til et rytmisk samspil af form, bevægelse og lyd. Derudover præsenteres en ny serie af indrammede papirudskæringer og oliemalerier på lærred.

Mathias Malling Mortensen tager med denne udstilling næste skridt i sin kunstneriske praksis. Efterårets udstilling på Esbjerg Kunstmuseum var bundet i papiret samt relationen til hans kunstnerfarfar Richard Mortensen. Nu er vi ikke kun forankret på papirets todimensionelle flade, eller bundet af familiens arv. Malling Mortensen tager hul på et nyt kapitel i sin egen kunstneriske fortælling og tager os med på en rejse på tværs af papirklip, malerier samt et sanseligt, vibrerende rum, hvor fragmenter har revet sig løs fra fladen og fået krop og liv.

*To be surrounded by beautiful, curious, breathing, laughing flesh is enough<sup>1</sup>*

I udstillingen hænger fem skulpturer – skabninger – skabt af papir, gips, voks og andre materialer. Former fra tidligere værker er sammensat og givet ny form, kroppe, der sys sammen af mange dele. Mary Shelleys fortælling Frankenstein findes blandt disse skulpturer – som Victor Frankenstein, der vækker sin skabning til live med elektricitet, genopliver Malling Mortensen sine linjer og strukturer og lader dem træde frem i en ny skikkelse.

Titlen på udstillingen, *I Sing The Body Electric*, peger både på Walt Whitmans poetiske fejring af kroppen og på elektriciteten, det element, der i Shelleys roman gør det livløse levende. Den elektriske strøm bliver nærværende i lydsporet skabt af komponist Simon Dokkedal. Han har givet hver skulptur sin egen klang, sit eget elektroniske kredsløb. Tilsammen udgør skulpturerne et kor, der udsender dybe metalliske klange og blød, bølgende støj. Lydene fletter sig ind og ud af hinanden, af og til er der sammenfald i rytmer, følelsen af harmoni findes i et øjeblik for derefter igen at falde fra hinanden – et mørkt, vibrerende kor af forskudte stemmer.

Vi skaber og omskaber konstant vores verdener, vores kroppe, vores identiteter, vores teknologier. I *sing the body electric* insisterer på evig bevægelse. Som Frankensteins skabning befinder vi os i en konstant grænsetilstand – mellem det gamle og det nye. Kunstneren tager det næste skridt i sin praksis, at træde ud af en form og ind i en ny indebærer altid en risiko – for kunstneren, for samfundet, for verden. Konturerne af det kommende er stadig utydelige, der er en forskydning i gang. Vi synger os selv og verden levende igen og igen.

*Examine these limbs, red, black, or white, they are cunning in tendon and nerve<sup>2</sup>*

Tekst af Majken Overgaard  
Lydinstallation af Simon Dokkedal

<sup>1</sup>Walt Whitman, "I Sing the Body Electric"

<sup>2</sup>*Ibid.*

*Mathias Malling Mortensen (f. 1980) er en autodidakt kunstner, der bor og arbejder i København, Danmark. Hans arbejde udspringer af en dybtgående undersøgelse af rum, hvilket tydeligt afspejles i hans kunstneriske tilgang. Malling Mortensens værker er blevet udstillet både i Danmark og internationalt. Blandt de seneste udstillinger er 'Alt det som ikke er' på Esbjerg Kunstmuseum (2024, DK), Twelve Rooms på Bricks Gallery (2023, DK) og Inner Sound på SARP (2021, IT).*