



HELSELHOLDT & MEJLVANG: LITTLE BLONDE GIRL





Teacup Face, 2014. H 5 cm. Stoneware.
Tea Party, 2014. H 22 cm. Stoneware.



Narrow Flags Vase, 2014. H 35 cm. Stoneware.



Heraldic Plate, 2014. Ø 32 cm. Stoneware.



Little Blonde Girl meets the Alligator, 2014. Ed. of 6 + 2 AP. 22,5 x 23,5 cm. Embroidery.



Nightmare Knight, 2014. 46 x 54 cm. Pillowcase, embroidery.



Powder Mountain, 2014. H 17 Ø 18 cm. Cheese dome, powder.





Little Blonde Girl on the Cliff, 2014. Ed. of 6 + 2 AP. 22,5 x 23,5 cm. Embroidery.

Little Blonde Girl meets the Tiger, 2014. Ed. of 6 + 2 AP. 22,5 x 23,5 cm. Embroidery,.



Little Blonde Girl says Welcome, 2014. Ed. of 6 + 2 AP. 22,5 x 23,5 cm. Embroidery.
The Way the Wind Blows, 2014. 32 x 9 cm. Wood, paint, chain.



Aryan Zebra, 2014. 276 x 195 cm. Zebra skin, paint.





Shades of Skin / Coat of arms, 2014. Ø 200 cm. Old bedding, curtains and cloths, dyed.



The Nasty Crew / Hooded Moomins, 2014. 25x 23x20 cm. Ceramics.



Skin colored Cross Flag, 2014. 24,5 x 24,5 cm. Embroidery.
Skin colored Swastika, 2013. 24,5 x 24,5 cm. Embroidery.



Happy Negro, 2014. H 23 cm. Stoneware.

Little Blonde Girl

Charlotte Fogh Gallery, Aarhus, Denmark.
31 October – 28 November 2014

Charlotte Fogh Gallery is delighted to present Sofie Hesselholdt and Vibeke Mejlvang's solo exhibition "Little Blonde Girl". The show constitutes the artists' duo's third solo exhibition at the gallery and continues Hesselholdt & Mejlvang's ongoing work with skin colour, specifically the white/Caucasian variety. The exhibition centres on skin colour as a historical, socio-cultural, and controversial phenomenon. At the same time it introduces a gender theme in which the small blonde girl is a main character and the domestic sphere is an overall frame of reference.

One of the typical traits of Hesselholdt & Mejlvang's art is that they work with several different media such as ceramics, sculptures, and installation art. These different modes of artistic expression are joined up by a general scrutiny of society. However, the works offer no clear-cut messages – they remain open to interpretation. This exhibition presents works created out of various forms of traditional professional and domestic crafts such as embroidery, ceramics, American wood carving, and patchwork. The works centre on familiar everyday life disrupted by something strange, eerie, and threatening.

A series of embroideries take their point of departure in the romantic illustrations from the children's book Little White Squibba, which is Helen Bannerman's rewrite of her better-known Little Black Sambo, now featuring a white girl as the main character.

In Hesselholdt & Mejlvang's version Squibba's clothes have been changed, becoming skin-coloured instead, and the images have been transferred to the medium of Korean machine embroidery.

The exhibition also presents a zebra who wants to be white, a ceramic Tea Party with men dressed in Ku Klux Klan garb engaging in a secret conspiracy; an embroidered flag bearing a cross design, and a Finnish coat of arms sewn out of old bed linen. The exhibition mixes elements from a bygone time – which may seem simple and straightforward to contemporary eyes – with features from a globalised world.

Sofie Hesselholdt and Vibeke Mejlvang have worked as an artists' duo since 1999 and graduated from the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in 2006. Since then they have maintained a prominent presence within Danish contemporary art, staging exhibitions at museums and galleries and receiving prestigious awards and accolades for their critical works, which offer wry commentaries on the values that underpin the Western world. In 2014 Hesselholdt and Mejlvang's work has primarily focused on activities in the Nordic countries, presenting large-scale solo exhibitions at Turku Art Museum in Finland, Oslo Kunstforening in Norway, and Norrtälje Konsthall in Sweden in addition to creating extensive artworks for the library of Herning. Concurrently with the exhibition at Charlotte Fogh Gallery the artists' duo also contributes to a group exhibition at the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Changdong, Seoul in Korea.

Hesselholdt and Mejlvang are featured in the collections owned by Norrtälje Kommune, Sweden; SKMU – Sørlandets Kunstmuseum, Kristiansand, Norway; The City of Copenhagen; the Municipality of Aarhus; Designmuseum Danmark, The Ny Carlsberg Foundation, and the Danish Arts Foundation.