
FOS

WORDS FOR WORKS

15.03.24 – 11.05.24

NILS STÆRK



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GLENTEVEJ 49 • COPENHAGEN

If any sentence echoes through this corridor, it is as domestic as broken and unfamiliar. Layers of textiles set the scene for the repetition of a supple beat. Words. For. Works. Or was it works, for words? It is hard to hear. When I think of words, I see strings of letters unravelling. Or shells wrapped around things, like labels to an array of familiar things—a chair, a table, a window, a mirror.

Sequences of letters unfold in front of me towards the end of the luminous abstraction of this page, feeding the arrow of time running with the cursor.

Left to right, with any yet-to-be-formulated idea, always ahead. For other ways of thinking and being in the world, the inscrutable future lives behind us. In that vision, unknown thoughts start from the back, expanding through my body towards the fingers that push the cursor forward, one type at a time.

It is a vaguely known feeling. Going about daily chores, I sometimes sense my mother so existentially close to me that her imaginary body takes over mine, entering from behind like a surgeon into a back-opened scrub. Our arms and

NILS STÆRK

hands merge into gestures of domesticity. It is then that I understand, most profoundly, how we are inescapably bound to each other, coiled into this creepy yet loving hybrid creature.

Is the present a factory of the past? Or a collision of timelines crumbles the past's foundations of the present? Strings of words pierce through forms and materials, shedding logic and bringing linear time on for the ride. How are they transformed when they emerge on the other side? Or how do they remain in that in-between, gluey and surprised into a time-suspended new thing, like the spooky creature created by my mother's ghostly penetration?

Hierarchies dissolve as language and time erase each other's order. Between skins, words swell, deform, and find a brief standstill in their new being. Membranes, both physical and metaphorical, lay bare, losing their defined shapes. If we expand that moment, we might get a sculpture. Coils and curves intertwine between opposing forces, creating an entanglement that defies linearity. Energy, whether derived from solar power or heat, is their driving force. Reminiscent of an archaeological dig into the layers of language, is touch the historian of this domestic space, now collapsed and lonely? Perhaps there should be no more words here. Just the sheer gravity of works for works.

Text by F.A





FOS

www oooo rrrr dddd ssss ffff oooo

rrrr www oooo rrrr kkkk ssss, 2024

Hand colored canvas, steel rods

Dimensions variable







FOS

The Present is the Past Factory, 2015

Metal rod, glass

360 x 330 cm

(141,73 x 129,92 in)

Edition of 9, 1AP





FOS

(.), 2024

Patinated Bronze

42 x 47 x 37 cm

(16,54 x 18,5 x 14,57 in)

Edition of 3, 1AP









FOS

30 Minutes Table, 2024

Aluminum, solar panel

75,9 x 105,7 x 177,3 cm

(29,88 x 41,61 x 69,8 in)

Edition of 5, 1AP







FOS
20 Minutes Chair, 2024
Aluminum, textile
79,7 x 45 x 50 cm
(31,38 x 17,72 x 19,69 in)









FOS

Enamel, glass and walnut, 2024

Aluminium, glass, enamel on copper,
rope, walnut

41 x 28,1 x 91,5 cm

(16,14 x 11,06 x 36,02 in)







FOS

MASKS, 2015

Powder coated aluminium

Total dimensions:

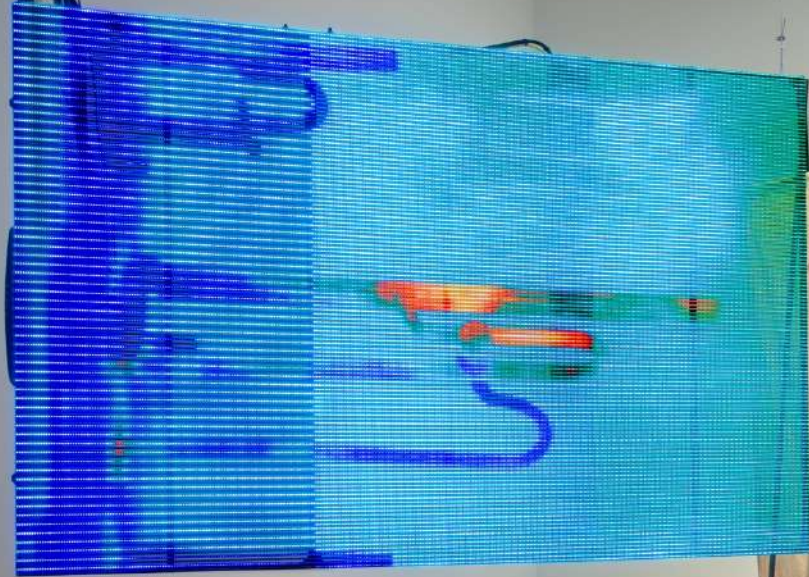
151,5 x 221 x 28,5 cm
(59,65 x 87,01 x 11,22)

Each part:

151,5 x 103 x 28,5 cm
(59,65 x 40,55 x 11,22 in)







FOS

Le Grand Poumon, 2024

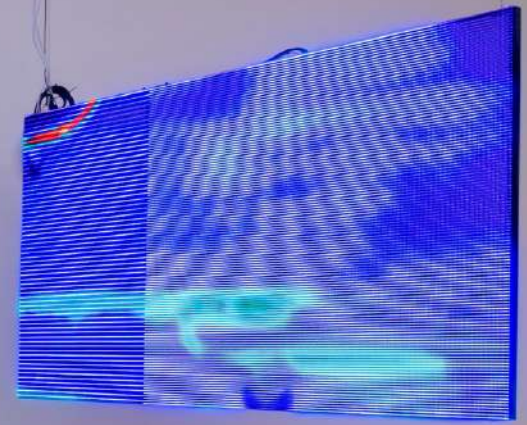
Video, LED panel

100 x 150 x 3 cm

(39,37 x 59,06 x 1,18 in)

Edition of 3, 1AP









FOS

Ruin, 2024

Colored jesmonite, aluminium

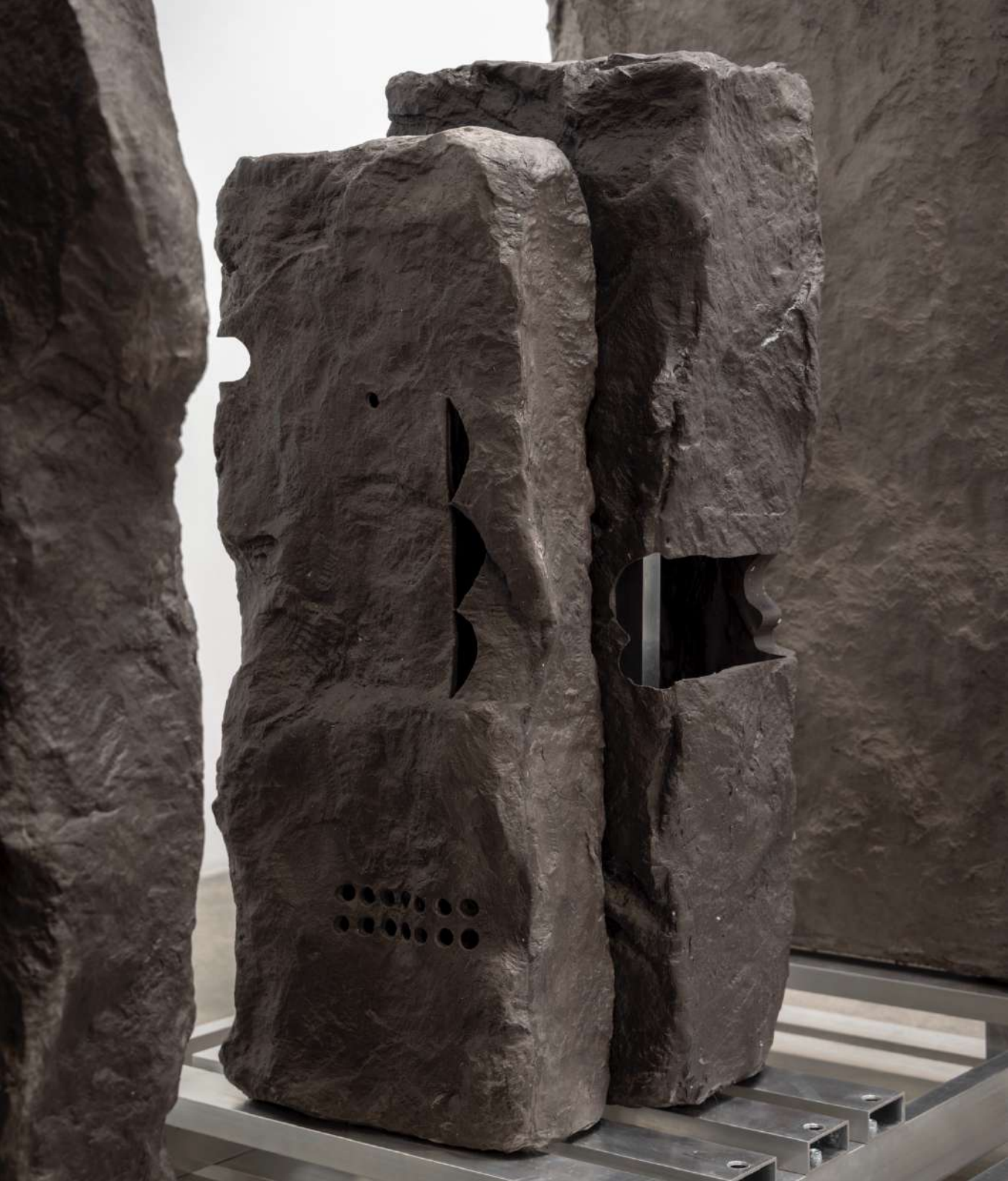
134 x 160 x 62,2 cm

(52,76 x 62,99 x 24,49 in)

Edition of 3, 1AP









R







FOS

Scissor, 2024

Patinated bronze

9,3 x 25,5 x 1,5 cm

(5,51 x 11,02 x 0,98 in)

Edition of 7, 1AP





FOS

Scissor, 2024

Patinated bronze

14 x 28 x 2,5 cm

(5,51 x 11,02 x 0,98 in)

Edition of 7, 1AP









FOS

Hands Smooth by Coins, 2019

Sand, rubber, plastic

18 x 74 x 50 cm

(7,09 x 29,13 x 19,69 in)









FOS

Afternoon and Evenings 1, 2024

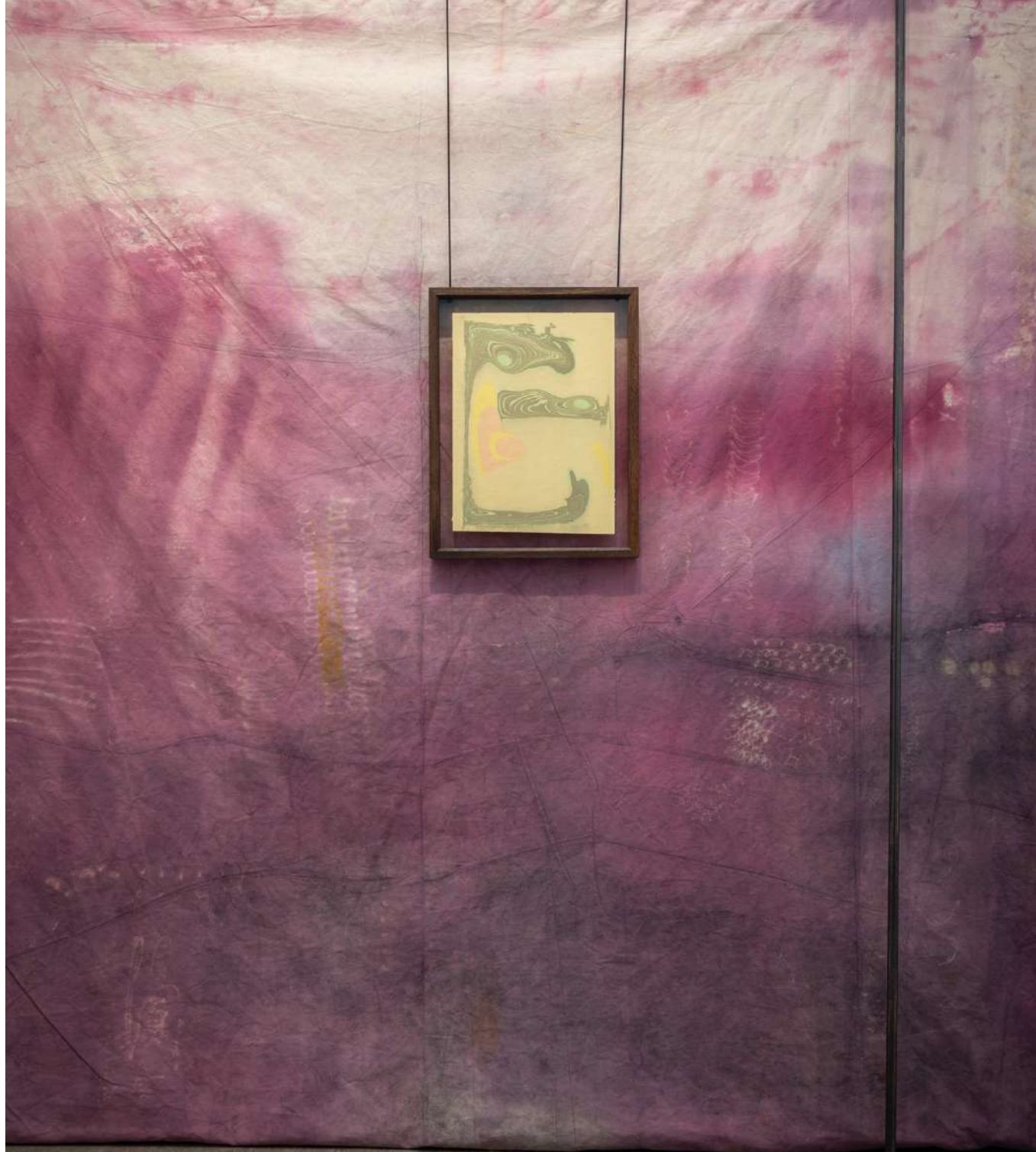
Acrylic on paper in artist made
smoked oak frame

73 x 59 x 4,8 cm

(28,74 x 23,23 x 1,89 in)









FOS

Afternoon and Evenings 3, 2024

Acrylic on paper in artist made
smoked oak frame

58,4 x 45,4 x 4,8 cm

(22,99 x 17,87 x 1,89 in)







FOS

Afternoon and Evenings 4, 2024

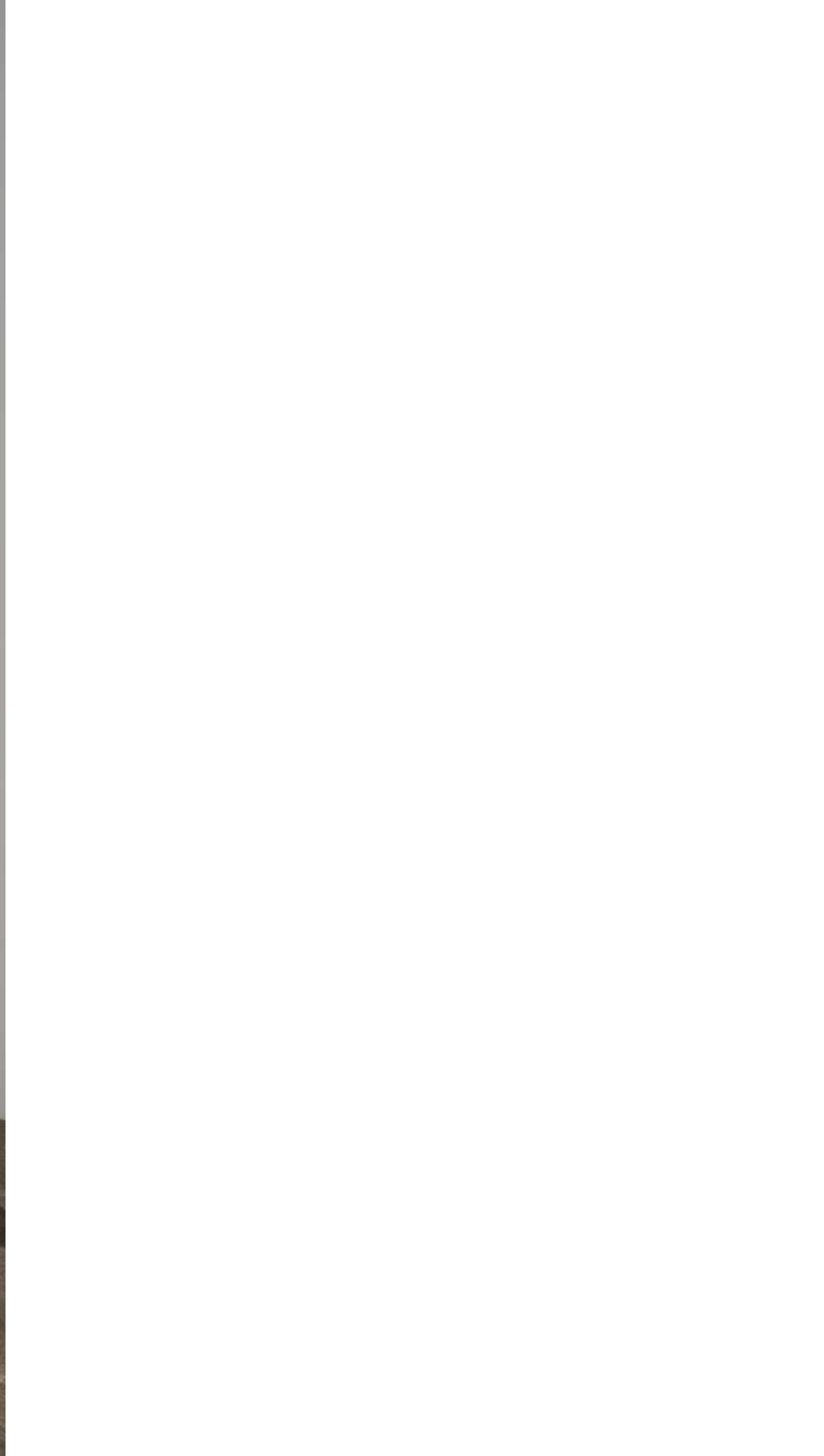
Acrylic on paper in artist made
smoked oak frame

59,2 x 44,4 x 4,8 cm

(23,31 x 17,48 x 1,89 in)







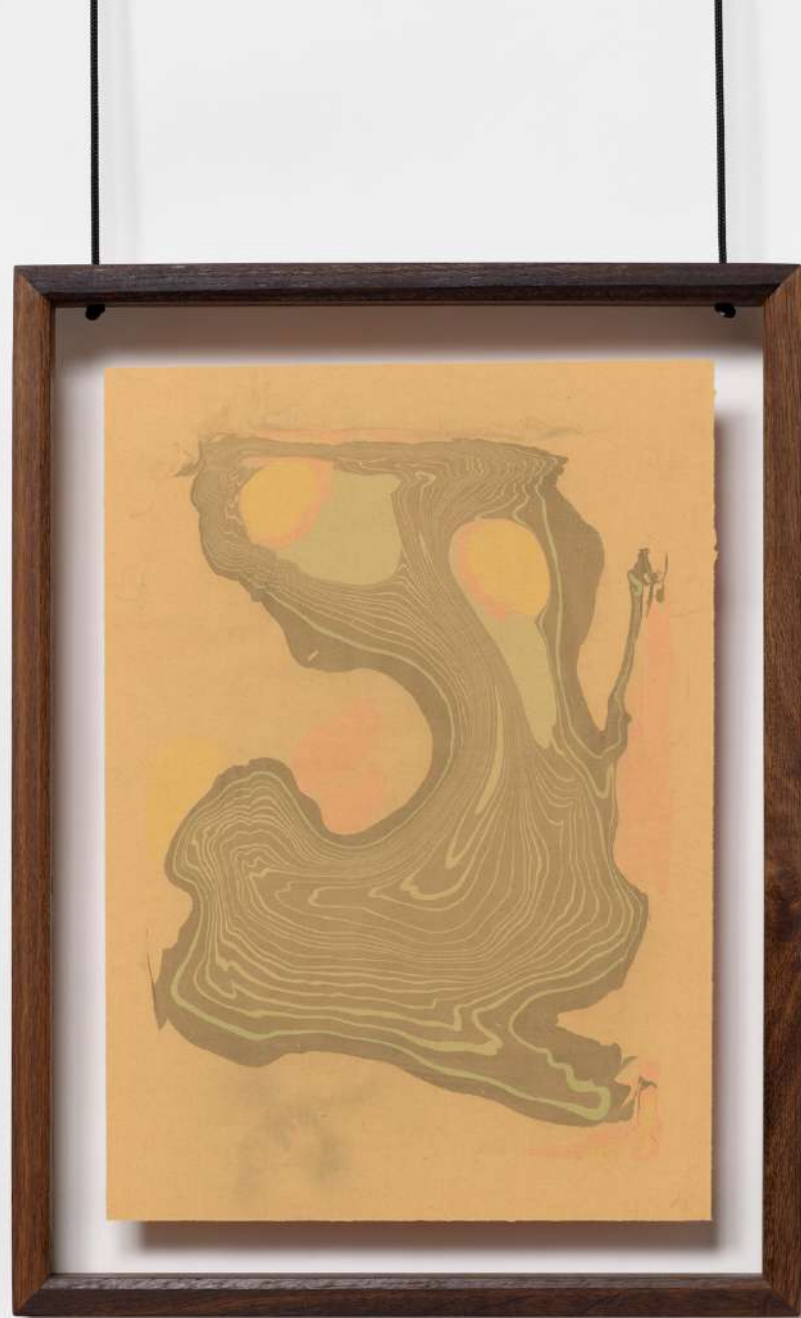
FOS

Afternoon and Evenings 5, 2024

Acrylic on paper in artist made
smoked oak frame

60,4 x 45,3 x 4,8 cm

(23,78 x 17,83 x 1,89 in)







FOS

Afternoon and Evenings 6, 2024

Acrylic on paper in artist made
smoked oak frame

73,3 x 59,2 x 4,8 cm

(28,86 x 23,31 x 1,89 in)











FOS
Hand, 2023
Concrete, glaze
56 x 26 x 28,5 cm
(22,05 x 10,24 x 11,22 in)





FOS

) (, 2024

Patinated bronze

36 x 25 x 0,5 cm

(14,17 x 9,84 x 0,2 in)

Edition of 25, 1AP





FOS (Thomas Poulsen)

Born in 1971, Copenhagen, Denmark
Lives and works in Copenhagen, DK and Venice, IT

EDUCATION

1993-99 The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen, DK

SOLO EXHIBITIONS (SELECTED)

2024 ABOGADO, Museo Anahuacalli, Mexico City, MX (upcoming)
Words for Works, NILS STÆRK, Copenhagen, DK

2023 WARM LEATHERETTE, Etage projects, Copenhagen, DK

2021 SKIN CARPET, Le Bicolore, Paris, FR

2019 Hands worn smooth by coins, Copenhagen Contemporary, Copenhagen, DK

NILS STÆRK

- 2018 /'palɪm(p)sest/, NILS STÆRK, Copenhagen, DK
Palimpsest – Hands Worn Smooth by Coins, SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, GA, US
- 2017 The Original Designer's Workshop, Etage Projects, Copenhagen, DK
- 2015 Maggie Margaret lives, (part of Fig. 2, week 41), ICA Studio, London, UK
Montana salen, Gl. Strand, Copenhagen, DK
Porthole, Kunsthal Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, DK
- 2012 Watchmaker, Max Wigram Gallery, London, UK
Declaration of Unsolid Memories, Camden Arts Centre, London, UK
Bageri, Andersen's Contemporary, Copenhagen, DK
- 2011 One language Traveller, SMK – National Gallery of Denmark, Copenhagen, DK
- 2010 Another Place Yet A Place, Andersen's Contemporary, Berlin, DE
Clutch, Max Wigram Gallery, London, UK
- 2008 Memory Theatre Twig!, GAK – Gesellschaft für aktuelle Kunst, Bremen, DE
- 2005 Social Design #11: You refer to yourself to reduce the message to me, Gallery Christina Wilson,
Copenhagen, DK

NILS STÆRK

Ovenpå hinanden til du forsvinder, The Showroom, Copenhagen, DK

2004 Social Design #10: You are Moving into me.... MW Projects, London, UK

2003 Liquid chain into the vapor wall, Gallery Christina Wilson, Copenhagen, DK

Where Scandinavians Health is Considered, Gustav Vigeland's Museet, Oslo, NO

2002 Sociality as the shell, the people as liquid, VTO Gallery, London, UK

2001 Inhaling human suffering exhaling well being, Gallery Mikael Andersen, Copenhagen, DK

Between the black house, Gallery oneone, Reykjavik, IC

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (SELECTED)

2024 Naboplanter, Den Frie – Centre of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, DK (upcoming)

2023 Frie hænder, Den Frie – Centre of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, DK

Kunsternes København, Nikolaj Kunsthal, Copenhagen, DK

2022 Far From Home II, ARoS Aarhus Art Museum, Aarhus, DK

NILS STÆRK

- 2021 All the air in half a lung together with Finn Reinbothe
(Unboxing the Archive), Den Frie Forårsudstilling, Den Frie – Centre of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, DK
Gravmonumenter, Aarhus Kunsthall, Aarhus, DK
- 2020 Freedom is outside the skin, Kunsthall 44, Møen, DK
Den frie udstilling, Den Frie – Centre of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, DK
The Minecraft Project, Copenhagen, DK
- 2018 Dansk-Jødisk Kunst, The Municipality of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, DK
Chair, Chair, Chair, Lamp, Table, Bed, Sofa, David Risley Gallery, Copenhagen, DK
- 2017 Cool, Calm and Collected, ARoS Aarhus Art Museum, Aarhus, DK
Ayrton. Four exhibitions by Armando Andrade Tudela, Nina Canell, Tania Pérez Córdova and FOS,
Museo Tamayo, Mexico City, MX
Paperweight, Fisher Parish Gallery, New York City, NY, US
Carte Blanche, The French Embassy, Copenhagen, DK
- 2016 In the shadow/ of a spectacle / is the view of the crowd, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk, DK
The Plinth project, Etage Projects, Copenhagen, DK

NILS STÆRK

- 2015 In the shadow/ of a spectacle/is the view of the crowd (collaboration with Jesper Just), Performa15, New York City, NY, US
Don't Worry, Kate MacGarry, London, UK
Out of use, Susanne Ottesen, Copenhagen, DK
TRUST-The Salon, Gl. Strand, Copenhagen, DK
- 2014 You are Welcome, (collaboration with Pind) ApArt, Hotel Kong Arthur, Copenhagen, DK
SKULPTUR ODENSE 14 - Still Water Run Deep, Odense, DK
Drømmeland, Kunsten Museum of Modern Art Aalborg, Aalborg, DK
Object Matter, Gallery Susanne Ottesen, Copenhagen, DK
- 2013 Agora, Athens Biennale, Athens, GR
Fictional Functions, Etage Project, Copenhagen, DK
- 2012 Living with Art, Galerie Reinhardt Hauff, Stuttgart, DE
- 2011 Speech Matters, Danish Pavilion, Venice Biennale, Venice, IT
Overlap, Den Frie - Centre of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, DK
Re:Constructed Landscapes, SMK - National Gallery of Denmark in collaboration with CPH:DOX, Copenhagen, DK
A Million Times, SMK - The National Gallery of Denmark, Copenhagen, DK

NILS STÆRK

- 2010 Carl Niensens og Anne Marie Carl-Niensens Award, Den Frie – Centre of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, DK
Situation as Object, Gallery D.O.R., Bruxelles, BE
- 2009 KURS: Havnen, Køge Harbour, KØS – Museum of Art in Public Spaces, Køge, DK
Sculpture by the Sea, ARoS Aarhus Art Museum, Aarhus, DK
Remap 2, Kerameikos Metaxourgeio (KM), Athens, GR
- 2008 ROOMING IN! Claus Andersen visits Patricia Low, Patricia Low Contemporary, Gstaad, CH
U-TURN, Quadrennial for Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, DK
Andersens Wohnung revisited 1996-1999, Andersen's Contemporary, Berlin, DE
56*N, 10*E, National Museum of San Carlos, Mexico City, MX
Before the whole story, Skulpturi.dk, Copenhagen, DK
- 2007 Accessories, Gallery Mikael Andersen, Copenhagen, DK
Blackberrying, Gallery Christina Wilson, Copenhagen, DK
- 2006 Regarding Denmark, Ileana Tounta Contemporary Art Centre, Athens, GR
The system is loose I think I love you, Busan Biennale, Busan, KR
Under.ctrl, FORUM STADTPARK, Graz, AT
Eigenheim, everything but the sink, Kunstverein Göttingen, Göttingen, DE
1st Belgrade Triennial, The Centre for Contemporary Arts, Belgrade, CS

NILS STÆRK

SOCIAL DESIGN – Matthew Brannon, FOS, Laura Horelli, Badischer Kunstverein, Karlsruhe, DE
REALITY, Brandts Klædefabrik, Odense, DK
Auschwitz, Galleri Weinberger, Copenhagen, DK
Showroom, Kulturfabrikken, Copenhagen, DK

2005 Labyrinth, Kunsthall Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, DK
Threshold, Max Wigram Gallery, London, UK
Framing the design of the future, Design Museum Denmark, Copenhagen, DK

2004 European Space, Culture Quadrennial Riga, LV
Posters, video and other stuff, Arts Santa, Barcelona, ES
Invisible Machine, Victoria Miro, London, UK

2003 Future Archive, Rooseum, Malmö, SE
Temporary Spaces, Kunsthall Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, DK

2002 What is Design?, Danish Design Centre, Copenhagen, DK
The Fall, Gallery Christina Wilson, Copenhagen, DK
Life Policies, ZDB – Ze Dos Bois Galeria, Lisbon, PT
From the 2001 Venice Biennale, Kunsthall Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, DK
Gallery Luhmann, Nils Stærk, Copenhagen, DK

NILS STÆRK

- 2000 Social Design vs. The Bitch of Accidents, Art Primeur, Dordrecht, NL
Ambassaden, John Kørnens Kontor, Copenhagen, DK
The vessel of Paint I, Gallery Newart, Copenhagen, DK
- 1999 Cities on the Move, Nasubi Gallery, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk, DK
Hello I'm Your Son, Capital Art, Hamburg, DE
Pizza (street Sharks), Kørnens Kontor, Copenhagen, DK
Big Red, (organized by FOS and Tal R) Mikael Andersen Gallery, Copenhagen, DK
Opening Show, Gallery Nikolaj Wallner, Copenhagen, DK
Pizza with the Social Design, Gallery 1%, Copenhagen, DK
The Accomplished Consultants, Hallo Gallery, Copenhagen, DK
- 1998 Flora Fobi, Sophienholm, Lyngby, DK
Tûmbula Tûmbula (as part of Pars Electronic), Aarhus Festival, Aarhus, DK
The White Loop (as part of Pars Electronic), Archipelago, The Maritime Museum, Stockholm, SE
- 1997 Charlottenborg's Autumn Exhibition (as part of Pars Electronic), Kunsthal Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, DK
Hurray Artist Party, Torbjørn Beckman Weekend Gallery, Copenhagen, DK
Shop-ping, Kunstforeningen, Copenhagen, DK
Underground, Gallery Asbæk Basement, Copenhagen, DK

NILS STÆRK

1996 Smile Now – Cry Later, The Turbine Halls, Copenhagen, DK

Update, The Turbine Halls, Copenhagen, DK

The Site of the Crime, The police Yard, Copenhagen, DK

Notes from the Anthropomorphic Figures of the Existence, Forum Gallery, Malmö, SE

1994 Inter Hotel, Inter Hotel, Istanbul, TU. Travelled to Billund Sculpture Park, Billund, DK

1993 Charlottenborg's Autumn Exhibition, Kunsthall Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, DK

NOTE: Pars Electronic was an artist group based in Copenhagen, DK, consisting of Kaspar Bonnén, Tal R and FOS

COMMISSIONS AND PROJECTS (SELECTED)

2024 Message above, thoughts on the ground, OUH, Odense, DK

2023 A.L.T, Bethaniagade, Herning, DK

Via Bagutta, space #3, Milan, IT

2022 Sweeper, Risbjerggaard Kulturhus, Hvidovre, DK

Via Bagutta, space #2, Milan, IT

NILS STÆRK

2021 BOYYxFOSspace #1, Milan, IT

2020 Mads Nørgaard, Copenhagen, DK

Det bortfalder, når vi går, Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, DK

Small White Man performance in Church of San Celso in collaboration with Futur Dome and L'art

Quotidien, Milan, IT

2019 2nd floor at Marienborg, Kgs. Lyngby, DK

2018 New, Mads Nørgaard, Aarhus, DK

Aur(0)a, Glamsbjerg, DK

Årsplakat for Børnehjælpsdagen

2018 Leaking Fountain, Pool Temporary & Etage Projects, Copenhagen, DK

Du rør, hvad du gør, Holbæk Art

"Uden titel "Hus forbi, Vanløse, DK

2017 The Interior of Inés, Vestre Fjordpark, Aalborg, DK

Value Watchers, ARKEN Museum of Contemporary Art, Ishøj, DK

2016 Your success is your amnesia, HF-centret Efterslægten, Copenhagen, DK

Clutch, Installation and an SWM concert, Kvadrat, Copenhagen, DK

NILS STÆRK

Nothing matters, Absolute Bar, Chart Art fair, Copenhagen, DK
Restaurant Ante, Copenhagen, DK

2015 Always happy new year (bar), The Royal Theatre, Copenhagen, DK
Visual and interior settings and music for CÉLINE SS16 show
Celebration of the Constitution, DISTORTION, Copenhagen, DK
Small White Man Record
Small White Man, concert at SMK – National Gallery of Denmark, Copenhagen, DK
Small White Man, concert at Kunsthal Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, DK

2012 Interior design, CÉLINE, stores worldwide
Small White Man, concert at Sejerø Festivalen, DK
Small White Man, concert at Roskilde Festival, DK
Small White Man, concert at The Armory Show, New York City, NY, US

2010 Oslo, Social Design #13, Project at the Copenhagen Harbour, In cooperation with KØS – Museum of Art in Public Spaces, Copenhagen, DK

2009 Danish National School of Theatre, Copenhagen, DK

2007 All this noise for nothing, nothing for something, Art Basel Statement, Basel, CH

NILS STÆRK

- 2006 Radical Horizontality, 'Home for the Men', Interior design and reconstruction of café, common rooms, TV-room, canteen and reception at a shelter for the homeless in Central Copenhagen, (in collaboration with Kenneth Balfelt), Copenhagen, DK
- 2005 Every mans house, 22 brick murals in housing project, Ishøj, DK
- 2004 Performance in co-operation with Tal R, Kulbojnic
- 2002 Butrunner, Radar Festival, Music Hall Vega, Copenhagen, DK
Future Archive, Rooseum, Malmö, SE
Social Design #7: Lydeking Advertising Office, Copenhagen, DK
- 2000 10 minutes later, in collaboration with Joachim Hamou, video/interior design, Copenhagen, DK
- 2001 Meeting room-design, (in collaboration with Kenneth Balfelt), Communication design and conference interiors for DCA Foundation (Art and Economy), Copenhagen, DK and Brandts Klædefabrik (Art and Reality), Odense, DK
KOM, Butter-sculpture (public art commission), Copenhagen, DK
Nanny in the hip hop bucket, in collaboration with Joachim Hamou, video/interior design/music, Copenhagen, DK
- 1999 Oslo - A Social Pavilion, Israels Plads, Copenhagen, DK

NILS STÆRK

1997 Shop-ping (Pars Electronic), (CD)

Social Design#1, Stereo Bar, Copenhagen, DK

Social Design#2, Ideal Bar (Little Vega), Copenhagen, DK

1995-99 Oslo Bar, A social club project, (in collaboration with Peter Leth), a theme of social nature, a music style and design – has the ambition to temporarily transform the different sites where it takes place, Malmö, SE; Royal Park; Le Kitch; Danish National Broadcasting Corporation Copenhagen, DK

1995 UNICEF's 50 year Anniversary Celebration, Copenhagen, DK

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

SMK – National Gallery of Denmark, Copenhagen, DK

ARKEN Museum of Contemporary Art, Ishøj, DK

Ny Carlsbergfondet, DK

ARoS Aarhus Art Museum, Aarhus, DK

Museo Tamayo, Mexico City, MX

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2019 Albertsen Foundation, DK

NILS STÆRK

2018 Aage og Yelva Nimbs honorary scholarship, DK

2018 Thomas Bindsbøll Medal, DK

2017 ARKEN Art Prize, Ishøj, DK

2011 Residency – ISCP, International Studio & Curatorial Program, New York City, NY, US

2010 Carl Nielsen's and Anne Marie Carl Nielsen's Award, DK

2006 3 year working grant, Danish Arts Foundation, DK

2005 Scholarship of Henry Heerup, Copenhagen, DK

2003 Bisballe Kunstfond, Copenhagen, DK

Niels Wessel Bagges Award, DK

CONTACT

GALLERY@NILSSTAERK.DK