

To
be
lost in
an
object

SUSANNE
HANGAARD



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**To be lost in an object
is a retrospective
exhibition installation
of Susanne Hangaard's
works from the past
seven years.**

All the pieces are physical investigations – mainly using the ceramic medium – of the relationship between object and body. Susanne is personally invested and involved in the installations. She functions as a canvas for familiar decorations or appears in the guise of *Joy*, the doll – a young girl at the threshold to puberty, puzzled by her own emerging sexuality, surrounded by shame balls and gold.

The same shame balls are shown encased in plaster moulds and decorated in dyed pink or marbled surfaces. The shame balls reappear in the golden porcelain chains, *GOLDEN SHAME*.

The ceramic objects are either encased or gilt. The artist manipulates the mal-

leable material of clay. Clay, which can be transmuted into anything: a porcelain doll or a brown shame ball or a precious golden necklace. What is real? What is surface, and does it cover up something dirty underneath? The uniform, the decorated shell that conceals the truth? *Joy*, the doll, gazes at the pieces and marvels. The scales shift; the child is three metres tall and not quite so innocent.

Susanne is a maker – both artist and craftswoman. An artist who crafts artistic objects by hand. And sometimes she crafts them using her body. Her work springs from her own experience and her own body in the world. She examines the body's relationship with objects and

explores her own body's being in the world. From literary descriptions of how objects become physical symbols of human debasement to absurd clashes between classic porcelain decoration and the naked body. It is all a little too much, too big and very recognizable, very universal and very human. ■

**To be lost in an object
er en opsamlende
udstillingsinstallation af
Susanne Hangaards værker
fra de sidste syv år.**

Alle værker er fysiske undersøgelses – oftest med keramikken som medie – af relationen mellem objektet og kroppen. Susanne sætter sig selv i spil. Hun fungerer som lærred for velkendte dekorationser eller som dukken *Joy* – den

unge pige på kanten af puberteten, der undrende bliver opmærksom på sin egen seksualitet, siddende omgivet af skamkugler og guld.

Samme skamkugler er indpakket i gipsform og dekorerer i indfarvet lysrød eller med marmorerede overflader. Skamkuglerne genkendes i de forgylte porcelænskæder – *GOLDEN SHAME*.

De keramiske objekter er enten indpakkede eller forgylte. Der manipuleres med det formbare materiale – leret. Leret, der kan blive til altting: en porcelænsdukke eller en brun skamkugle eller det dyrebare gyldne halsmykke. Hvad er ægte? Hvad er udenpå, og dækker det over noget beskidt nedenunder? Uniformeringen, den dekorerede skal, der skjuler sandheden?

Dukken *Joy* skuer ud over værkern og forundres. Skalaerne forskydes, og barnet er tre meter højt og ikke helt uskyldigt.

Susanne er kunsthåndværker – hun er kunstner og håndværker. Hun er kunstner, der laver værker med hånden. Og somme tider værker, der er lavet med kroppen. Hun tager udgangspunkt i sig selv og sin krop i verden. Hun tager afsæt i kroppens relation til objekter, og hun udforsker sin krops "væren" i verden. Fra littærlære beskrivelser af, hvordan objekter bliver fysiske symboler på menneskelig fornedrelse til absurde sammenstød mellem klassisk porcelænsdekoration og den nøgne krop. Det hele er lidt for meget og lidt for stort og meget genkendeligt, meget alment og meget menneskeligt. ■

Bettina Køppe // April 2017



The works *Relic I, II, III, Hiding and Pretending*
are inspired by the following quotes from Aksel Sandemose's novel
A fugitive crosses his tracks.

Værkerne *Relic I, II, III, Hiding og Pretending*
er skabt med inspiration i følgende citater fra Aksel Sandemoses roman
En flygtning krydser sit spor.

The only thing I own which came from the home of my parents is a little dish, a part of old Sandness's "gift". It is fairly pretty in design; often I take it up and dream of my mother, who for years had it in her own hands so many, many times a day. It has become a relic, acting in a way like a prism, focusing within itself the lives of humble folk who bend their necks and suffer and who comply with all the laws that are placed in their way.

Det eneste jeg har fra mine forældres hjem, er et lille fad, en del af gaven fra Sandness. Det er et nydeligt fad, jeg tager det ofte i hånden og tænker på mor, som i en årrække holdt det i sine hænder mange gange om dagen. En relikt er det blevet, som en prisme samler det noget i sig, småkårsfolk, der bøjer nakken og lider og opfylder alle de love, de bliver bragt i nærheden af.

It is not always exactly the darkness of night that scares me. I cannot sit down quietly until I know I am hidden from view. The window before me, too, must be covered over that only enough light to see by may filter in across my table. One last remaining open space can be covered over as quick as a flash at the sound of approaching footsteps. I do not wish to be seen when I am alone in a house. In the newspapers I make peepholes; through these I control my surroundings without myself being seen.

Det er ikke altid selve natten eller mørket jeg er bange for. Jeg sidder ikke roligt før jeg har gemt mig, også vinduet foran mig er dækket til, når jeg hører fodtrin. Jeg vil ikke kunne ses, når jeg er alene i et hus. Jeg laver kikhuller i aviserne, og gennem dem kontrollerer jeg omgivelserne uden selv at blive set.

My life had become a web of lies and illusions.

Mit liv var blevet et net af løgn og illusioner.

RELIC I, II, III
2013

Glazed stoneware, concrete with gold leaf
H: 35 cm W: 244 cm D: 122 cm

Glaseret stentøj, beton med bladguld
H: 35 cm L: 244 cm D: 122 cm



HIDING & PRETENDING

2015, 2017

Hiding:

Glazed stoneware, dyed plaster, rubber bands

Glaseret stentøj, indfarvet gips, gummibånd

Pretending:

Glazed stoneware, painted plaster

Glaseret stentøj, bemalt gips

H: 19 cm W: 360 cm D: 225 cm

H: 19 cm L: 360 cm D: 225 cm

GOLDEN SHAME

2017

Glazed porcelain with lustre, japanese cotton string

H: 290 cm W: 290 cm D: 4 cm

Glaseret porcelæn med lustre, japansk bomuldssnor

H: 290 cm L: 290 cm D: 4 cm











ABSENTIA

2010

Video

0.51 min (loop)

THE SWING

2010

Earthenware, latex

H: 10 cm L: 61 cm D: 25 cm

Lertøj, latex

H: 10 cm W: 61 cm D: 25 cm





JOY
2011

Porcelain, mixed media
H: 140 cm W: 250 cm D: 220 cm

Porcelæn, mixed media
H: 140 cm L: 250 cm D: 220 cm





Works

Shame, 2013-2017

The *Shame* trilogy is the result of a long, intense collaboration between myself and Aksel Sandemose's novel *A fugitive crosses his tracks*. The novel includes the *Law of Jante*, a set of ten rules, all variations on the theme "Don't ever think that you're anything special, or that you're better than us." The law describes the attitude towards an individual in a group of people who share the same social status. Sandemose wrote about working-class people in the small town of Jante, but he also stated that the *Law of Jante* is universal.

I worked with the novel in relation to the concept of SHAME.

Relic I, II, III were created with inspiration from the story that provides an early key to the novel. The novel's main protagonist, Esben, recalls a Christmas present of ten kroner that Esben's father received from his employer, the foundry owner. In order to show modesty, Esben's mother spent only eight kroner. She then put on her best clothes and went to see the foundry owner to thank him for the money, which she had spent on stoneware from a local shop. Immediately after Christmas and the New Year, the foundry owner changed his mind about the present to Esben's family and docked one krone a week from Esben's father's pay until the eight kroner had been paid back. Esben reminisces about seeing his mother hold

a particular ceramic dish in her hands many times a day. The dish, which was part of the gift from the foundry owner, became a relic, illustrating what people of humble means had to put up with from those with power and money.

Relic I, II, III consist of shame balls in glazed stoneware and dishes covered in gold leaf. The shame ball is a physical manifestation of shame and is shaped by the human body.

Hiding and *Pretending* are part II of the trilogy. They take one step further into the universe of the novel to study phenomena that relate to or lie in extension of shame. The ceramic shame balls are encased in plaster, based on the

plaster moulds that shaped the shame balls. Thus, the "plaster mould" becomes part of the finished piece and is no longer just a means to create another product. In *Hiding*, the plaster is dyed. In *Pretending*, the plaster is painted, with inspiration from imitation painting, which was all the rage in the late 1600s.

Golden shame is part III of the trilogy. It consists of 100 one-off porcelain necklaces. The pendants are shaped by the body and reproduced in porcelain.

Joy, 2011

The poem *Sitting on my little rational branch* from Inger Christensen's debut collection, *Light*, forms the point of

departure for the exhibition *My erotic childhood* from 2011. The main piece, the 3-metre-tall porcelain doll *Joy*, refers to both traditional Western European porcelain dolls and the more modern Asian ball-jointed dolls.

My erotic childhood walks a razor-thin edge in addressing the delicate topic of children and their sexuality.

Absentia, 2010

Blue fluted porcelain, which is now seen as typically Danish, and which is a huge success for Royal Copenhagen, was the source of inspiration for the decoration of "the body", reproduced in stop-motion film. To a ceramicist, blue fluted porcelain is an important

legacy that is both suffocating and difficult to live up to. The reinterpretation of the blue fluted pattern is nearing epidemic levels, as traditional porcelain productions are taken through the ironic wringer and subjected to extensive accessorizing.

Absentia represents a desire to fuse body and ceramic in surrealistic fashion and a personal visualization of how a tradition can feel like a burden. ■

Susanne Hangaard
// April 2017

Værker

Shame, 2013-2017

Trilogien *Shame* er resultatet af et langt, intenst parløb mellem undertegnede og Aksel Sandemoses roman *En flygtning krydser sit spor*. Romanen indeholder Janteloven, et sæt af 10 regler, som alle er variationer over temaet "Du skal ikke tro du er noget særligt, eller at du er bedre end os." Loven beskriver attituden mod et enkelt individ i en gruppe af personer med samme sociale status. Sandemose skrev om arbejderklassen i den lille by Jante, men han fastslag samtidig at Janteloven er universal.

Undertegnede har arbejdet med romanen i relation til begrebet SKAM.

Værkerne *Relic I, II, III* er skabt med inspiration fra den fortælling som blev indgangsnøglen til romanen. Romanens hovedperson, Esben, fortæller om en julegave på 10 kr., som Esbens far fik af sin arbejdsgiver, støberiejeren. Esbens mor brugte kun 8 kr. af de 10 kr. for at vise mådehold. Hun tog sit fineste tøj på og drog til støberiejeren for at takke for pengene, som blev brugt på stentøj hos den lokale isenkrammer. Da julen og nytåret var overstået, ændrede støberiejeren mening om gaven til Esbens familie. Det resulterede i, at Esbens far blev trukket 1 kr. i løn hver måned, indtil de 8 kr. var tilbagebetalt. Esben fortæller, hvordan han ofte har set sin mor sidde med et lille keramikfad i hænderne mange gange om dagen. Fadet, som var en del af gaven fra støberiejeren, blev en reliktie for, hvad små-

kårsfolk måtte finde sig i fra dem, der havde magt og penge i samfundet.

Relic I, II, III består af skamkugler i glaseret stentøj og fade belagt med bladguld. Skamkuglen er en fysisk manifestation af skam og er formgivet af kroppen.

Værkerne *Hiding* og *Pretending* er trilogiens del II. Her tages et skridt videre ind i romanuniverset for at studere fænomener, der står i forhold til eller i forlængelse af skammen. De keramiske skamkugler er indkapslet i gips, og det er gjort med udgangspunkt i de gipsformede, som skamkuglerne oprindeligt blev formet i. Dvs. at "gipsformen" er blevet en del af det færdige værk og ikke kun et middel til at skabe et andet produkt. I *Hiding* er gipsen indfarvet. I *Pretending* er gipsen

bemalet med inspiration fra imitationsbemaling, som var højeste mode i slutningen af 1600-tallet.

Golden shame er trilogiens del III. Værket består af 100 unikke porcelænhalskæder. Vedhængene er formgivet af kroppen og efterfølgende gengivet i porcelæn.

Joy, 2011

Digtet *Sidder på min fornufts lille gren* fra Inger Christensens debutdigtsamling, *Lys*, er udgangspunktet for udstillingen *Min erotiske barndom* fra 2011. Hovedværket, den tre meter høje porcelænsdukke *Joy*, refererer til de traditionelle vesteuropæiske porcelænsdukker såvel som de mere moderne asiatiske ball-jointed dolls.

Min erotiske barndom bevæger sig på en hårfin kant i forhold til det ømfindtlige tema børn og deres seksualitet.

Absentia, 2010

Musselmalet porcelæn, som i dag fremstår som typisk dansk og er en kæmpe succes for Royal Copenhagen, er forlægget for dekorationen af "kroppen" gen- givet i stop-motion-film. Som keramiker oplever man musselmalet porcelæn som en stor arv, der på én gang er kvælende og svær at leve op til. Genfortolkningen af mussel nærmer sig en omsiggrubende epidemi, hvor porcelænsfabrikernes traditionelle produktioner skal en tur igennem den humoristiske vride- maskine og udsættes for alle tænkelige accessories.

Absentia afspejler et ønske om at fusionere krop og keramik på surrealistisk vis og en personlig visualisering af, hvordan en tradition kan opleves som et åg.

Susanne Hangaard
// April 2017

SUSANNE HANGAARD

Born 1972 in Nykøbing Mors, Denmark. Lives and works in Copenhagen, Denmark

Education:

The Danish School of Design, Copenhagen, Denmark. Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, US

Previous exhibitions, selection:

Drawing, The National Glass Centre, Sunderland, UK, 2015-16.

FLUX Exhibition of Contemporary Clay, The Niland Gallery, Galway, Ireland, 2013.

jeg, The intimate AUTUMN: Behind the facade, Århus Centre for contemporary art, Århus, Denmark.

First international solo show at Pamenkalinio Galerija in Vilnius, Lithuania, 2012.

Upcycling 2011 at Permanenten Vestlandske Museum of Art in Bergen, Norway.

Kunstnernes Efterårsudstilling, KE 2010, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Awards and grants:

Danish Art Foundation's work grant, Danish Art Foundation's award,

Danish Art Foundation's project grant, Danmarks Nationalbanks Jubilæumsfond af 1968,

Danish Crafts, Annie og Otto Johs. Detlefs travel grant,

The Danish Cultural Ministry's travel grant.

Susanne Hangaard. Født 1972 i Nykøbing Mors. Bor og arbejder i København

Uddannelse: Danmarks Designskole, København. Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, USA

Tidligere udstillinger, udvalgte: Drawing, The National Glass Centre, Sunderland, UK, 2015-16. FLUX Exhibition of Contemporary Clay,

The Niland Gallery, Galway, Ireland, 2013. jeg, Det intime EFTERÅR - bag facaden, Kunsthall Århus, 2012.

Første internationale soloudstilling på Pamenkalinio Galerija i Vilnius, Litauen, 2012. Upcycling 2011 på Permanenten

Vestlandske Kunstmuseum i Bergen, Norge. Kunstnernes Efterårsudstilling, KE10, København.

Legater og præmieringer, udvalgte: Statens Kunstmånds arbejdslagat, Statens Kunstmånds præmierung,

Statens Kunstmånds projektstøtte, Danmarks Nationalbanks Jubilæumsfond af 1968, Danish Crafts,

Annie og Otto Johs. Detlefs rejselegat, Kulturministeriets Designpulje.

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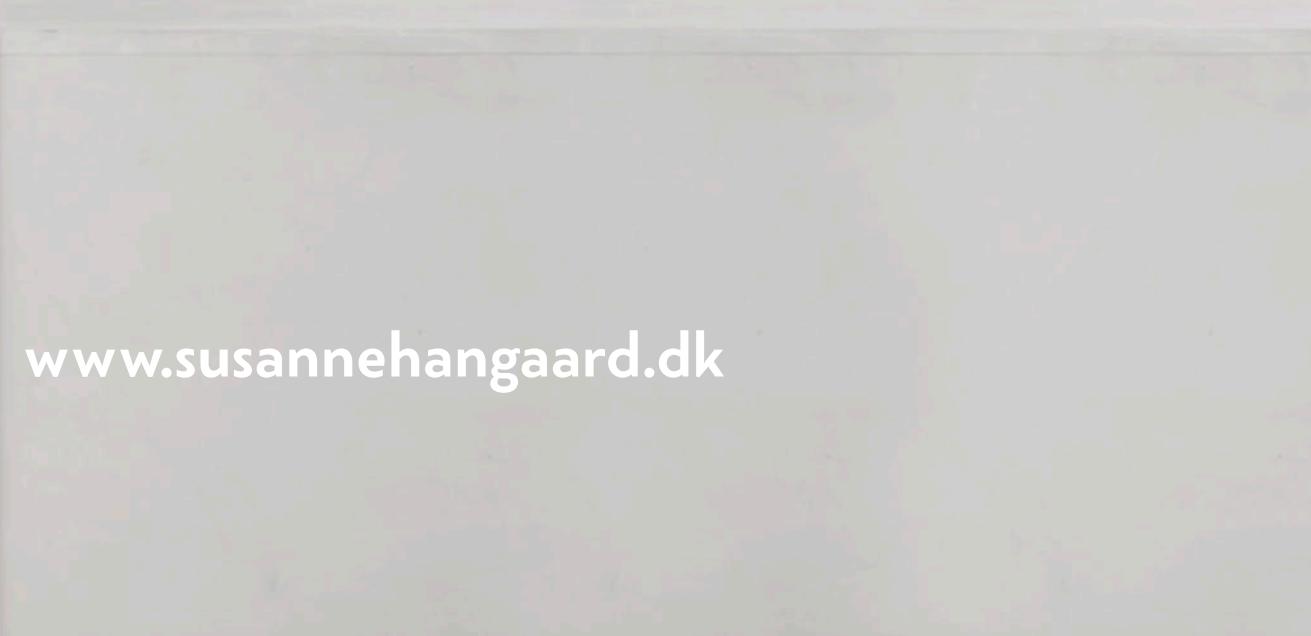
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