

Kunstraum

Late Nights & Early Mornings

with Jacob Dahlgren and Edward Clydesdale Thomson

Over the past twelve years Stockholm-based artist **Jacob Dahlgren** has amassed a collection of over 1000 striped t-shirts, each one with a unique pattern and combination of colours. Each frame of the video piece 'Neoconcrete Space' (2012), is based on one of these patterns. Rather than seeing this collection as source material for his work, Dahlgren sees his daily wearing of the garments as an artwork in itself. Just as many of Dahlgren's works are made up of everyday objects, others escapes the gallery walls and becomes a part of his daily life.

The infinite variability of patterns and the nuanced resonances between colours is a subject which has fascinated artists for centuries. The same variety of patterns are taken up by clothing manufacturers as a means to release new and unique collections each year. The design of t-shirts contributes little to colour theory, while t-shirt wearers give little thought to the nature of the patterns they bear, but Dahlgren situates his works in a place where formal experimentation and vernacular culture collide.

Dahlgren's 'Unit of Measurements' (2011) also combines abstract thinking and the everyday. It is made from 29 tape measures, a tool employed daily by many, but here they create a pattern which formally maps the gallery's surface. But the tape measures remain utilitarian – 'Unit of Measurement' contains the tools necessary for its own installation, a set of predetermined measurements dictate where each tape should halt on its journey across the gallery wall.

The work of Rotterdam-based artist **Edward Clydesdale Thomson** is concerned with the places and objects on the margins of outside and inside, of wild and tamed landscapes. His sculptural works may resembled gates, fences, or topiary frames for taming decorative trees. In 'The Distracted Gardener' (2013) the common washing line is claimed as just such a site of transition, marking a place where sanitised domestic life is brought into contact with the natural world. Here the line is a rope tied from decorative fabrics designed for Finnish design company Marimekko. The fabrics also perform a transition from exterior/interior : in print the wild landscape is domesticated and comes to represent a certain lifestyle choice.

The steel props of 'The Distracted Gardener' use a spatial language of intersecting soft curves and sharp lines which explicitly references the topiary garden designed by the Scottish architect Robert Lorimer in 1897. For Thomson, Lorimer's topiary represents the enduring capacity of a garden, at the end of the 19th Century, to be at the avant-gard of contemporary style

Thomson's interest in landscape is by no means tame; in his book *As if an entrance is over there* – he paraphrases Ann Bermingham to describe landscape as 'an active battlefield where ideologies are trained, tested, framed and destroyed'. Perhaps by embodying this principle in his work Thomson proposes that contemporary art can be understood in the same terms – as signifying the capacity of individuals to interfere with the world around them.

Late Nights & Early Mornings is Kunstraum's summer program, a back-to-back relay race of five exhibitions running through till September. With each new opening one artist will swap places with the next. The exhibitions include: Jacob Dahlgren and Edward Clydesdale Thomson (1–22 August), Edward Clydesdale Thomson and Florian & Michael Quistrebart (from 23 August) and an event program at the end of September. *Late Nights & Early Mornings* aims to discover new relationships between artists working in different localities, at the same time it explores the idea of the exhibition space as a site of constant activity.

About Kunstraum:

Kunstraum is a London-based project space with a focus on solo exhibitions of artists based outside of the UK in London's neighbouring European cities. Kunstraum, literally meaning 'art room' in German, seeks to form new relationships with the interconnected art scenes of Europe and the rest of the UK.