

The Pretty Things

Knud Odde

Opening: Friday 8.1. 2016, 5-8 pm

Duration: 9.1 – 30.1. 2016

Knud Odde's first solo show at Galleri Tom Christoffersen is concentrated around four major works that portray the members of four bands from 1960-1970's. The title "The Pretty Things" is taken from a fifth band from the same era. The year 1966 is a significant indicator for the exhibition. That was the year some of the portrayed bands released important singles; The Walker Brothers' *The sun aint gonna shine anymore*, The Loved Ones' *Sad Dark Eyes*, The Move's *Night Of Fear* and Danish Beefeaters with *Big City / LSD*. 1966 was the last great year for the 7-inch single, which hereafter was overtaken by the LP in sales. The British music journalist Jon Savage describes the year in his new book *1966*, as where the pop-decade exploded. The revolutionary ideas that had slow-cooked since the end of 1950's reached the boiling point and in music, art and fashion the "60's" hit its modernist peak. In a unique blend of ideas, materials, expression and dialogue across the pop-cultural continents created a landscape of immense and eventually shattering creativity, Jon Savage writes.

The background story frames fine the portrayed young beat-stars in Knud Odde's works, but it is only half the part in experiencing them - as always Odde's paintings work perfectly on their own. The portraits are easily recognizable and peculiarly captivating. In his own unique style Odde grinds faces, hair-styles and bodies to make them his own and they draw us with the always seductive, melancholy they exude. The meeting with the exhibitions the new works is intensified further by virtue of their large format, where the portrayed are depicted in oversize. The pictorial space is emptied out and the monumental portraits are cut precisely into the dynamic compositions. Their glances want to be answered and the intimacy is insistent.

Knud Odde (b. 1955) graduated as a library assistant from the Danish Research Libraries in 1978. Bass player in the rock band *Sort Sol* 1977-2001. Debuted as an autodidact artist in 1983 with his first exhibition. Over the years Knud Odde has received the Oluf Hartmans Grant, the Henry Heerup Grant and the Danish Arts Foundation 3 year work grant i.e.. **Solo exhibitions:** *Erich von Stroheim* Esbjerg Art Museum and HEART - Herning Museum of Contemporary Art. 2000: *Da kødet blev kunst* (w. Michael Kvium and Peter Carlsen) Holstebro Art Museum. 2002: Kastrupgaardsamlingen and Randers Museum of Art. 2013: Vejle Art Museum. 2015 Trapholt. **Group exhibitions:** 1990-91: *Rockens Billeder* Brandts Klædefabrik and Museum of Fine Art (Goteborgs Konstmuseum), Gothenburg. 1994: *Made In Denmark* The Royal Collection of Graphic Art, the National Gallery of Denmark. 2000: *Paintings – Works on Paper*, DCA Gallery, New York. 2013: *Fra et andet sted*, Skive Museum of Art. 2014 *This is our art*, David Risley Gallery, Kbh. **Collections:** ARoS, Design Museum Denmark, HEART - Herning Museum of Contemporary Art., Kunsten - Aalborg, The Royal Collection of Graphic Art, the National Gallery of Denmark and Moderna Museet, Stockholm i.e.

Knud Odde also works with Clausens Kunsthandel, Copenhagen