

## Stig Brøgger *Shooting* Chris Burden *Shoot*

**Opening: Friday 11.8.2017, 5-7pm**

Duration: 12.8 – 9.9. 2017

In Stig Brøgger's work *Shooting* from 1969 a photographer was hired by the artist to shoot pictures in rapid succession of the artist falling to the ground in an empty gallery space in Copenhagen. *Shooting* was later displayed in the same gallery space in which the photographs were shot. *Shooting* is a playful investigation of the role of the artist and the possibility of out-sourcing parts of the creative process. As seen in other works by Brøgger from this period, new systems of producing and reproducing information are tested. With the artist cast as the victim of a rapid-firing camera, and the photographer as a hired assassin, *Shooting* echoes countless scenes in popular crime movies. At the same time, with each image depicting only a fraction of the action, the work calls to mind the early motion studies of Étienne-Jules Marey and Eadweard Muybridge, which is also where the historical developments of photography and gun technology first converge. *Shooting*, surely, plays with notions of photography, reality, time, and death.

A small but significant group of images in art history deals with shootings, from Goya through Manet to Robert Capa and, later on, Chris Burden. Two years after Stig Brøgger's *Shooting*, Chris Burden produced his controversial piece *Shoot*, in which the artist is shot in the arm by an assistant. "In this instant I was a sculpture." Chris Burden means the moment his arm was pierced by a bullet from a .22 rifle. Actually, when the trigger was pulled on November 19th 1971, at a distance of 13 feet, the intent was only to graze the artist's arm. *Shoot* was considered one of the most spectacular performances of its time. The controversy surrounding *Shoot* was fuelled by the fantasies and fears triggered by shooting and gunshot wounds. With the escalation of the Vietnam War, the subject matter penetrated the minds of the American public no longer as fiction but as fact. This exerted a significant influence on the daring of Burden's experimental piece.

**Stig Brøgger (1941)** was part of the Copenhagen-based Eks-skole from 1964-66 and has exhibited at Louisiana, Humlebæk, The National Gallery, Copenhagen and Brandts, Odense, and abroad at the Venice Biennale (1971), MoMA, NY in the exhibition *Information* (1970), at Wiener Sezession, Vienna, Moderna Museet, Stockholm etc. From 1981-97 he was professor at The Royal Danish Academy of Art.

Stig Brøgger is represented by Galleri Susanne Ottesen, Copenhagen

**Chris Burden (1946-2015)** received his B.F.A. in 1969 from Pomona College, California and his M.F.A. in 1971 from University of California. He was the first artist ever to be represented by Larry Gagosian in 1978. He has exhibited at LACMA, Los Angeles, New Museum, New York and Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, Vienna, etc. His works are part of the collections at Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, MoMA, New York and Tate Gallery, London among others.

Chris Burden is represented by Gagosian Gallery