

The thread is my brush

Inge Bjørn

Curated by Ida Schyum and Fanny Christoffersen

Opening: Friday 21.06. 2019 5-7pm

Duration: 21.06. – 27.07. 2019

Aged ninety-four, it is time for a retrospective exhibition featuring the weaver Inge Bjørn. At first, her works appear to emulate a painting and intuitive practice, but a closer look reveals a very different method. It is not spontaneously and quickly hurled at the canvas, but nurtured into existence in yarns the color of nature with careful attention to the intimate work. Plenty of time is a must when weaving and hence time has played an essential part in myths about weavers. Just like in ancient Greek myths, Norse Mythology describes how the Norns – goddesses of destiny – weave the fabric of time and the thread of life. Just so, Bjørn responds to the thread of time and the history of weaving. Similar to her former collaborative partner, Asger Jorn, she engages in the weaving techniques and aesthetic of folk art while pointing at the relevance of weaving today.

We are always in touch with fabric, which conveys both taste and identity in addition to fulfilling functional needs as clothes. The sight of the hand-woven and neatly controlled textiles in Bjørn's works invite us to reflect on the things usually surrounding us. Nevertheless, due to this practical use of textiles coupled with its gender-biased history, it has always been difficult for tapestry-weaving to gain a foothold on a par with painting. Thus, Bjørn's works bear out the predictions voiced by the art critic Erik Clemmensen in 1971: 'Tapestry is a new concept, though people have woven tapestries for millennia. Now something's afoot, the thread has discovered a new dimension. (...) And remarkably, it's chiefly women who are the creative force in this new art form, tantamount to the conquering of space by yarns and which, in fifty years, will be duly discovered by the unflinching tardiness of art historians.'