

GALLERI TOM CHRISTOFFERSEN

PRESS RELEASE

AVANTGARDE MECANIQUE

- hommage à *Franciska Clausen*

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Arranged by Malene Landgreen

Opening: Friday 21.11.2014, 5-8 pm

Duration: 22.11 – 20.12. 2014

The fascination of the early avantgarde, the graphic agitation, the Bauhaus-movement and the visionary artistic manifestos led me as a young art student in 1986-87 to Budapest in Hungary. Hand bookshops here were overflowing with books about the early avantgarde and in particular with books on Moholy Nagy. I found his and Lajos Kassák's *Buch Neuer Künstler* from 1922, which I was very inspired by. These discoveries became very important for me and for the direction of my work from there on. You can in some way say that I have had the same mentors as Franciska Clausen.

The body - which in the early avantgarde practices should be included as a mechanical form and object in a larger cosmos, and then taken into the New World, the industrial society - it appears in the exhibition and becomes quite present here and now, as well as the contemporary works interact with each other in the historic space.

The contemporary works are new statements and imprints of time. These are the same shapes as we know them from the classical avantgarde, from Franciska Clausen. We recognize them and use them still. It is the tool we have when we try to open the world once again. We open with new knowledge and experience, so that when we look back, the world can change and history be rewritten - sprung from contemporary sensibility and understanding.

Art is unconditionally dedicated only to itself and yet at one with the universe. It is based on the laws of potentiality, its power rooted in the cosmos, and every tiny atom of it proves that it could have been produced only now and this way.

Lajos Kassák in *Buch Neuer Künstler*, 1922

The exhibition has become a kind of historical, metaphysical collage that places Franciska Clausen in her original context, but then paired with the contemporary art to develop a relationship. A study of the relationship between living Danish artists and the early avantgarde, represented by Franciska Clausen and her contemporaries. The contemporary works pointing back at crucial moments and images from a past that is so modern that it is still indispensable.

Malene Landgreen