

PERSONA

Lene Adler Petersen

Opening: Friday 17 March 2017, 5-7pm

Duration: 18 March – 22 April 2017

The exhibition *Persona* features a series of new paintings by Lene Adler Petersen. These multifaceted and compositionally refined canvases interpret the persona as a psychodynamic abstraction both when considered individually and as a complete, comprehensive sequence.

Lene Adler Petersen uses the *Persona* category to denote an abstract painting reflecting the reception of a person through impressions, experiences, considerations. Each picture is headed by a name — a sort of dedication: Author Karen Blixen, Psychiatrist Birgit Petersson, Author T.S. Eliot, Author Inger Christensen and Artist Méret Oppenheim. However, these persons are not locked into explicit statements. Quite the contrary: The image field is subdivided into areas featuring variable, recurring entities creating an open system. The subdivisions alternate between spatialities and anthropomorphic figures, filling out and assuming form through the slow buildup and condensation of minutely executed strokes. Surfaces veined like distant landscapes; torsos; oval organisms and round globes; insistently frontal fields; color intensities and collapsing spaces. In relinquishing recognizability she refuses to contain the people she describes. Instead she sets them free.

The large painting *Personarummet* constitutes the starting point of the series: An abstraction over the workspace of the psychiatrist Birgit Petersson, this is a space where visitors assume their regular position — places which are occupied by other people at other times. Lene Adler Petersen also reflects on the psychological significance and use of the *Persona* concept in these works, echoing the psychiatrist C.G. Jung who used the term to denote the social mask communicated between the ego and the outside world within the psychic structure.

Lene Adler Petersen (born 13 January 1944 in Aarhus) studied at Jutland Academy of Fine Arts 1964-66 and the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts 1968-69. From the late 1960s, she worked in collective relations as ABCinema, The EKS-school printers, the magazine *Women* and the artist group *Arms and Legs*. Since 1974, she has shown her works at a number of exhibitions in Denmark and abroad and in 1982 made several works in public spaces. Lene Adler Petersen has made commissions at Herlev Hospital, The Supreme Court, Cph. and Holstebro Gymnasium. In The National Gallery's exhibition "What's Happening?" In 2015 about the Danish experimental art between 1965 to 1975 Lene Adler Petersen's works played a significant role.