

CLAUS CARSTENSEN

DEFACED LORE

PRESS RELEASE

Opening: 03.05.2013 kl. 17-20

Duration: 03.05. – 01.06.2013

NB Closed Thursday 09.05.2013

Claus Carstensen is current with *Defaced Lore*, an exhibition at Tom Christoffersen Gallery. The raw material of the exhibition consists of a number of paintings, which are collected in thrift stores and flea markets around Denmark. Afterwards, in the studio, these paintings have been *defaced* by the artist, i.e. elaborated with knife, tempera and spray. *Defacing*, which is a central concept in Claus Carstensen's work practices, can be described as at the same time destructive and constructive action, where an existing image is used as the basis for a new work. In the history of art the phenomenon appears for the first time with the Christian iconoclasts. Since then the method has been used by a variety of artists, including Robert Rauschenberg, who in 1953 created the work *Erased de Kooning* only by erasing a drawing by fellow artist Willem de Kooning. In Danish context, the genre to work with existing images has in particular been used by Asger Jorn and Per Kirkeby, but opposite Jorn's *modifications* and Kirkeby's *overpaintings* Claus Carstensen's works at the exhibition *Defaced Lore* rather must be characterized as mutilations.

Claus Carstensen (b. 1957) is educated at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen 1977-1983 and was professor there from 1993-2002. He is represented in numerous collections including the National Gallery of Art, ARoS Aarhus Art Museum, Arken Museum of Modern Art, Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein and Universal Museum Joanneum / Neue Galerie Graz. **Solo exhibitions 2013:** *Claus Carstensen – På Papiret*, Øregaard Museum, Gentofte 28.02 – 05.05.2013 (catalog will be published), *Pavilion of The Naked*, Himmerlands Kunstmuseum and Morsø Kunstforening 16.02 – 08.05.2013 (catalog published), *Klaksvikaffærer*, Nordatlantens Brygge, København 3.5 – 11.8. 2013 (catalog published). **Upcomming curated exhibitions:** In collaboration with Christian Vind, Claus Carstensen is curator of the exhibition *Café Dolly* with late, figurative works by Francis Picabia, Julian Schnabel and J.F. Willumsen at the J.F. Willumsen Museum, Frederikssund (9.7. 2013 - January 2014 - catalog is in preparation and will be published by Hatje Cantz). **Upcomming publications:** Later this year the two small, signed and numbered books *Dét, hvorom man hverken kan tale eller tie* and *Lille dæmonologi* will be published by Steinprent, the Faroese lithographic workshop, with essays by Søren Ulrik Thomsen and lithographic works by Claus Carstensen.