

Kirsten Schauser & Jacob Juhl – AASYN, exhibition at Galerie Pi, Copenhagen

Press release

It is not every day that you step into an exhibition and feel that you might as well have looked at yourself in the mirror. That is, if you have a little self criticism! Image, branding, identity, self-promotion – we all know them from the trends of the day. And it is the resonance of these words that rings in the subconscious when you are confronted with people painted on mirrors, a sleeping person painted on a bed, and photographs of a conflicting or split personality. When Kirsten Schauser and Jacob Juhl then go on to choose the word AASYN (-an old expression for face or countenance) as the title of this exhibition it is precisely because the word points back at human identity as meaning, “the way in which you show yourself to others”.

Identity is the keyword for Schauser and Juhl. Through painting, installation and photography respectively they explore the human body and face as bearers of identity, both in terms of the way you want to express your own identity, and the way in which it is perceived and interpreted in a social context. Their way of doing so is quite original as they absolutely effortlessly avoid the expected, and surprise the viewer with unconventional combinations of motif and material.

Kirsten Schauser is remembered for her portraits on cement pillows among other things, and in this exhibition she takes one step further and includes mirrors and furniture. Her idea of portraying “ordinary people” and their private, intimate everyday life situations is all about the moments where you peel off parts of the outer identity and don’t show yourself to others, look in the mirror, or turn your gaze inwards.

Jacob Juhl works with digitally manipulated photographs to explore the tension between being yourself, seeing yourself from the outside and conscious self promotion. He works with themes such as simultaneous personalities, a fragmentary view of personality and the doppelgänger as metaphorical concept. The pictures are printed on different materials such as brushed aluminium and wooden boards to give the pieces a tactile and unpredictable expression where the materials talk back and give the images life and depth.

Kirsten Schauser lives in Copenhagen and has studied at the art schools Spectrum and Billedskolen. Among other things she has exhibited at Charlottenborgs juried spring exhibition in 2009.

Jacob Juhl lives near Silkeborg and has studied Information Science and Multimediadesign. He has participated in the juried exhibitions Kunsternes Efterårsudstilling and Kunsternes Sommerudstilling in 2010.