

BIO Cecilie Gravesen



My Dutch Great Grandmother Johanna Pothast in a sculpture park in Holland, mid-1960's, well-knowing that her husband Bernard was a descendant of the notorious 15th Century pirate Hans Pothorst.

Cecilie Gravesen was born in 1975 in Denmark, and has since lived and worked in Copenhagen and London. Her work looks at the translation between reality and rumour; through installation of film and objects, she navigates through overlooked events with a subjective documentary method. As with the story of an 18th Century outspoken female puppeteer, or the account of two identical villages existing side by side as a result of hydraulic politics, Cecilie's installations make tangible the fragmented narrative, hereby questioning the transmission of history and memory. Her arrangements of residual objects and images enquire about the status of such findings, as they shift between being utilitarian instruments and spirited vehicles. By resting on the border between sketch and image, Cecilie's method sits between investigative archaeology and instinctive sculptural whittling, and freezes the frame moments before the rehearsal becomes a fixed entity.

Cecilie's ongoing interest in imbued, ceremonial objects and the way in which these are held by museums, is currently leading to the production of film and sculpture. The meeting between these two worlds throws a light on the schism between the object's metaphysical intent and agency and the scientific concerns for preservation within Western conservation, where the legacy of colonialism presents itself.

Recent solo exhibitions include 'New Seams' at Galleri Opdahl in Stavanger, Norway, March 2009. Recent group exhibitions include 'Fooling the Findings' at East Gallery in London 2010, 'Unrealised Projects' in Breda 2009, 'All The Best' at David Roberts Art Foundation in London 2008 and 'Made Up' at The Liverpool Biennial 2008.

Alongside her art practice, Cecilie Gravesen curates exhibitions and writes for art publications. She studied Fine Art at Chelsea College of Art, Curating Contemporary Art at the Royal College of Art (both in London), and Literature at Copenhagen University.

Works in public collections:

Rogaland Artmuseum Norway and Museum MAN Berlin