

Nikolaj Bendix Skyum Larsen From the Edge

Exhibitions in partnership with **DISCOVERY FILM FESTIVAL**

8 September - 18 November 2012
Dundee Contemporary Arts

Nikolaj Bendix Skyum Larsen is an artist born in Aalborg, Denmark in 1971. Currently based in London and Paris, he is exhibiting and screening his work internationally and has gained a significant reputation. DCA are delighted to be presenting a selection of his video works.

Rendezvous presents portraits of migrant Indian workers in Dubai opposite images of their families who remain in their homeland of Kerala in India. Generally hidden behind the image of the prosperous society of the United Arab Emirates, Larsen positions these expatriate labourers in the foreground, allowing us to see not only their faces, but a further context that exposes both the circumstances that led them there in the first place and the system that may keep them there indefinitely. An emotional charge connects the images and the sounds of the two worlds. Discussing the scale of the projection of the work, the artist states “*I want the characters - who are normally the lowest in society and ignored by most - to feel majestic, proud*”.

In creating the film *Tales from the Periphery*, Larsen held workshops over a period of five months with teenagers from Saint-Denis, a suburb outside Paris's ring road Boulevard Peripherique - an area that is mainly inhabited by immigrants from France's former colonies. The community is often associated with high levels of crime, unemployment and riots. Filmed by the workshop participants with simple video cameras and their mobile phones, *Tales from the Periphery* is a thought-provoking, touching and refreshing portrayal of life in a suburb scarred by years of negative, one-sided media attention.

The second instalment of *Tales From the Periphery* was made in collaboration with young people from the Danish suburban housing scheme 'Gellerupparken', an area that is often associated with high levels of crime, unemployment and gangs of second generation immigrants. Gellerupparken is the single largest housing project in Denmark, with approximately 10,000 residents.

No Place Like Home is an experimental documentary exploring the vast desert areas surrounding Dubai, one of the United Arab Emirates. Dubai is one of the world's fastest developing urban areas. In the 1970s U.A.E. had a population of 30,000, now some 7.8 million live in the country.

In *My Cat and I*, located at the entrance of the building, the artist attempts the impossible task of making a still portrait with his cat.

Larsen has exhibited internationally, including at Trondheim Museum of Modern Art, Norway; Centro Fundacion Telefonica, Lima; the Folkstone Triennial 2011; Thessaloniki Biennale 2011; Salt Lake Art Centre, USA and the Sharjah Biennial 9. This month, Larsen also unveils a new work at Peckham Space, London. Larsen's work is represented in public and private collections in Denmark, England, France, Greece, Italy, Norway, United Arab Emirates and the United States.

Rendezvous, 2009, 24 minutes, HD Video. 2 screen projection, 4 channel soundtrack. Commissioned by Sharjah Biennial 9.

Contes de la périphérie (Tales From the Periphery), 2010, 35 minutes. Director / Editor: Nikolaj B. S. Larsen; Sound design: Mikkel H. Eriksen; Original music: Søren Zahle; Funding: Kunststyrelsen, Ambassade du Danemark, Paris, Maison du Danemark.

Fortællinger fra periferien (Tales From the Periphery), 2010, 34 minutes. Director / Editor: Nikolaj B. S. Larsen; Sound design: Mikkel H. Eriksen; Original music: Søren Zahle; Funding: Århus Festuge, Århus Kommune, Institute Francais.

No Place Like Home, 2005, 17 minutes, 16mm and 8mm film transferred to Digibeta. Director / Editor: Nikolaj Bendix Skyum Larsen; Camera: Jonas Mortensen / Nikolaj Bendix Skyum Larsen; Sound design / Original music: Mikkel H. Eriksen; Funding: Danish Art Council, Sharjah Biennial 7, Sharjah Art Museum, Danish Film Institute, Abingdon Film Unit.

My Cat and I, 1999, 4 minutes 30 seconds, Mini-DV.

DCA

Dundee Contemporary Arts

Exhibition open: Tue-Sat 11:00-18:00, Sun 12:00-18:00, Open late Thu until 20:00.

Open daily during Discovery Film Festival, 20 October - 4 November 2012. Admission Free.

Discovery Film Festival

Sat 20 October - Sun 4 November 2012

www.discoveryfilmfestival.org.uk

Discovery Film Festival, Scotland's International Film Festival for Young Audiences, takes place annually at DCA and partner venues across Scotland, programmed and produced with the help of our Young Ambassadors. Throughout the year, family screenings, creative workshops and youth film projects bring the magic of cinema to young people in Dundee.

On Sun 28 October at 13:15, and Sun 4 November, *I Am Eleven* as a companion piece to the exhibitions. The film is a life-affirming portrait of a group of eleven-year-olds from 15 countries, each speaking in their own words. Their thoughts are at once both fascinatingly similar and reflective of the rich variety of their cultural backgrounds.

Talks and Events

Book your place on 01382 909 900. For more information please visit www.dca.org.uk

Meet the Artists

Fri 7 September, 18:00-19:00

Free but please book in advance.

Join DashnDem, Nikolaj Bendix Skyum Larsen and Graham Domke, Exhibitions Curator at DCA, for an introductory conversation and sneak preview of the exhibition before the official opening.

((echo))

Thu 27 September, 18:30-20:00

Free. Drop in.

Come along and contribute to this popular event designed to provoke discussions about the current exhibitions through a series of presentations by local artists.

Contemporary Art Encounters

Sat 10 November, 14:00-16:00

Free. Drop in.

Join us for Saturday afternoon art schooling with the DCA Gallery Assistants and explore how the current exhibitions relate to themes in contemporary art.

Workshops and Activities

Imagine Being a World Leader Workshop

Sat 15 September & Sat 17 November

14:00-15.30, £3.50

Suitable for 8 – 12 year olds unaccompanied and family groups.

Can you change the world? Create and choreograph your own world leader-style speech, learn about how to use gesture and design a world summit badge. This workshop combines drama, performance and art & design, inspired by the work of artists DashnDem. Juice and snack provided.

Art Cart Adventures

Sun 16, Sat 29 & Sun 30 September;

Sat 13, Sun 14, Sun 21, Sat 27 & Sun 28 October;

Sun 11 November, 13:00-15:00

Free. Drop in.

Drop in for free, fun activities in the gallery that explore our exhibitions. Learn how to use signs and symbols that help people around the world to communicate across language barriers.

Activity Room

Play, learn and create with our free DIY activities inspired by the exhibitions in DCA's Activity Room. Our Activity Room is open daily unless being used for a workshop.

Just Ask

Our friendly Gallery Assistants are always happy to help with any exhibition related queries and questions.

Keep up to date by visiting our website, www.dca.org.uk, or by following us on Twitter or Facebook.

DCA

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