

P R E S S R E L E A S E

OLAV CHRISTOPHER JENSSEN

“The Letharia Paintings”

May 10 – June 30, 2012

Gallery Charlotte Lund is proud to present our first solo exhibition of the Norwegian artist Olav Christopher Jenssen. The exhibition entitled “The Letharia Paintings” is made in collaboration with Galleri Riis.

“The Letharia Paintings” is a new series of monumental paintings in oil and acrylic on canvas. Evolving from years of work, they reveal traces of the abstract, organic imagery from before. These works are more intense and denser, conveying a sense of still growing, of infinity. The Letharia in the title is the name of a lichen – a poetic afterthought, according to the artist.

Jenssen makes infinite paintings, offering the viewer an equally expressive and stylised landscape. Simultaneously working with multiple series and mediums, Jenssen alternates between the different works mentally and physically; from informal and fast painted pictures to more strict and formal paintings, in monumental as well as small formats.

Olav Christopher Jenssen is considered one of the foremost artists from the Nordic region and has gained international recognition for his distinctive and multi-faceted paintings, as well as for his idiosyncratic sculptures. In addition, his production encompasses drawings, graphic works and books. Always exploring and adopting new methods and techniques, his works contain both continuity and diversity. The play of the fragile, impulsive and immediate opposed to the more restrained and controlled, architectonically composed paintings, create a never ending artistic exploration and a vital approach to his own visual vocabulary. The paintings open up a philosophical space for dialogue and reflection, encouraging the viewer to unveil strata of paint and decipher cryptic symbols, as on an archaeological journey through the hundred year history of abstract painting.

Alongside the exhibition at Charlotte Lund, Olav Christopher Jenssen’s “Panorama /Second Generation” is presented at Galleri Riis in Stockholm. He is also currently featured at restaurant Sturehof in Stockholm, exhibiting under the title of "Infinitiv". During the period May 19 – September 16, his exhibition "The Protagonist", featuring works from 2008-2010, will be shown in Varbergs Konsthall. This exhibition was previously presented in Västerås Konstmuseum in the autumn of 2010 after touring in the Nordic countries. His permanent sculptural work “Lingaphone” was inaugurated in Södra Frihamnen, Gothenburg in 2011. In autumn 2012, Jenssen will show new works at the Marta Herford Museum in Germany, and in 2014 an exhibition is planned for the Fundação Serralves, Porto, Portugal.

Olav Christopher Jenssen (b. 1954) lives and works in Berlin and in Lya, Sweden. After many years as a professor in Hamburg, he has since 2007 held a professorship in Hochschule für Bildende Künste Braunschweig in Germany. He is represented in several important collections, including Museum of Modern Art, New York, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Centre Pompidou, Paris and The National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design in Oslo. He has had major museum exhibitions at Astrup

Fearnley Museum of Modern Art, Oslo, Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, and Kunstmuseum Bonn, Germany, where his works takes up a whole room in the museum's permanent collection.

During the exhibition the gallery will organise an artist talk with Olav Christopher Jenssen and an invited guest.

Press images are available on request.

Please join us at the opening reception Thursday, May 9th, 6 – 8 pm. Welcome!

We wish to thank



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Upcoming exhibition: Klas Hällstrand, August 30 – October 6, 2012