

## **KURS: THE TREE**

**4th September 2009 – 3rd January 2010**

An almost 5-metre-tall star projector in wood and a large video installation showing the clearance of the rain forest. With its five metres the photo work *Lysning (Clearing)* covers a whole wall, a series of tree microphones screens off the large panorama windows, and enormous photographic details of the rain forest on a scale of 1:1 swallow up the viewer. A lot of physical work with such grand gestures has to be done at Fuglsang Kunstmuseum before the curtain can go up on this autumn's special exhibition.

Fuglsang Kunstmuseum is on the Fuglsang estate in an area rich in rare and historic trees, so it is an obvious choice for the museum to invite wood and trees inside for the exhibition **KURS: THE TREE**. In collaboration with the guest curator of the exhibition, the visual artist and Lolland resident Søren Lose, the art museum is exploring the shades of meaning in the tree – as concept, motif, material and as a metaphor of visual awareness.

For the exhibition the museum has invited a number of contemporary artists from Denmark and abroad, each of whom offers widely differing, thought-provoking contributions to interpretations of the tree as an artistic theme. The exhibition ranges from works directly created for the occasion to local wood types and exotic trees as well as borrowed works, including Rodney Graham's pictures, which turn the trees upside down, and Thomas Struth's *Paradise* photographs with huge picture surfaces showing the rain forest.

Other participants include Thomas Demand (D), Søren Assenholt (DK), Myong Ho Lee (South Korea), Gabriela Albergaria (P), Lise Harlev (DK) and Julian Rosefeldt (D).

Nature incarnate is interwoven with the artists' personal reflections and is staged as art objects and constructed universes. For what is special about a tree? What do we look for in nature? Can art expand our awareness of what kind of entity a tree is? Can we see the wood for the trees?!

**KURS: THE TREE** at Fuglsang Kunstmuseum opens on 4th September as part of the new exhibition collaboration **KURS**, which involves the five art museums in the Zealand region (**KUnstmuseer i Region Sjælland**). The joint project takes its cue from elements that are typical of the landscape surrounding each museum, and of course Fuglsang Kunstmuseum singles out the tree as the area's most important marker in the landscape.

**KURS: THE HARBOUR, THE HILL, THE LAKE, THE SQUARE, THE TREE** is showing more than 50 notable Danish and international contemporary artists. One overall ticket gives you admission to all of them: **THE TREE – Fuglsang**

Kunstmuseum (from 4/9); THE LAKE / Vestsjællands Kunstmuseum/Art Museum of West Zealand (from 16/8); THE HILL – Odsherreds Kunstmuseum/Odsherred Art Museum (from 23/8); THE HARBOUR – KØS Museum of Art in Public Space (from 5/9); and THE SQUARE / Museum of Contemporary Art (from 5/9). [www.kurs.dk](http://www.kurs.dk)

**Attached:** Press photo:

Sanna Kannisto

*Sphingidae: Maduca pellenia* (2004)

Courtesy Galerie Wilma Toksdorf, Frankfurt