

Andersen's

CHRISTIAN FALSNAES | ICON

29 August - 6 October 2018

Amaliegade 40, 1256 Copenhagen

Andersen's is pleased to announce Christian Falsnaes' inaugural solo exhibition at the gallery presenting, for the first time in Denmark, the artist's latest work *ICON* which, in March 2018, premiered at Kunstmuseen Krefeld in Germany.

In his immersive performances, Christian Falsnaes creates liminal situations that bring together formal art mediums with the intangible and unexpected dynamics of collective identities. Video works, paintings, installations and spaces become a moment to channel and reflect upon the concepts of expectation and reaction, favouring, with unanticipated outcomes, communicative processes between groups' and individuals' behaviours.

The participatory nature of his practice targets the problematics inherent in social structures through highlighting their power dynamics. By directing participants to relinquish their control, the artist creates unique testimonies of moments where the highly codified rituals of our society are targeted. Falsnaes employs directives to underscore the significance of individual will, turning the reaction of his audiences into material for their own self-reflection.

In *ICON*, the artist further probes collective frictions by breaking the habitual patterns of interaction within the social norms of the art-world. Inspired by the collection of Kunstmuseen Krefeld, replica works of Lucio Fontana, Yves Klein, Imi Knoebel, Bruce Nauman, Blinky Palermo, Reiner Ruthenbeck and Franz Erhard Walther (the *icons* of the male-dominated post-war modernism) are disruptively destroyed, rearranged and reinvented by a throng of visitors that are directed by the artist. *ICON* results in a selection of works that mirroring the sacral image of an exhibition, abruptly claims the status of exhibition itself.

The transience of this performative act ultimately questions the autonomy of art itself by conveying collective emotions, desires and instincts in an equally aesthetic outcome. As the final work gains social and aesthetic momentum, *ICON* triggers further considerations on the role of the current viewer, who, confronted with the tumultuous and layered journey of creation, finds himself in a state of reflection. The juxtaposition of the video work and of the installation, which are displayed in adjacent spaces in the gallery, echoes the feeling of these displaced dynamics.