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MESSAGES FROM HIBERNATION

Hartmut Stockter

Opening reception Friday January 20th from 5 to 8 p.m.
January 21st through February 18th 2012.
Wednesday – Saturday from noon to 5 p.m.

Skulpturi.dk is very pleased to announce this solo show by Hartmut Stockter (born 1973) *Messages from Hibernation*, an exhibition which focuses on winter and landscapes. Stockter's works are rarely sculptures in any normal sense of the word but rather a kind of odd instruments and utensils. The works do not appear to be aesthetic objects, but rather as functional items with a practical purpose. Most of Stockter's works are a kind of apparatus which offers a new perspective on landscapes and a new kind of nature experience.

The works in the exhibition are spatial works, but perhaps thematically they are more closely related to landscape painting than they are to sculpture. Like the landscape painter Stockter chooses a motif in nature which he then lets the viewer experience from the precise perspective which he has chosen. Unlike landscape paintings, however, Stockter's works do not mimic a direct experience of nature. They evoke images and sounds *within* the viewer rather than *in front of* her, as a painting would do. These works give you an idea of what it would be like to live in a warm tent on a sled from where you can observe the birdlife or look at the flowers beneath the snow. In this way the exhibition does not depict the landscape as a painting would do. The works instead evoke a bodily, sensory, experience of a winter landscape which seems to harbour numerous untold stories.

Throughout the works there seems to be a wish to get closer to the landscape, to experience the simple beauty of nature. Paradoxically though, the only approach to nature, and to this wish to be a part of nature, is apparently the invention and construction of tools and machinery.

Hartmut Stockter was born in the town of Wilhelmshaven in northern Germany, but has lived and worked in Copenhagen since 2002 and has had a number of exhibitions here. In 2010 and 2011 for instance his works could be seen at the gallery *Beaver Projects*, at *Ringsted Galleriet*, at *Rønnebæksholm Castle* and as part of *Sculpture by the Sea* in Aarhus.

Sincerely
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