

Outdoor climate – indoor weather

An exhibition called OPEN WINDOW UNITS featuring sound, textiles and architecture opened this October at Nicolai Exhibition Halls in Kolding. It is all about the weather.

“OPEN WINDOW UNITS”, the somewhat cryptic title is equivalent to the old term of “one square foot of 100% sound-absorbing material”, and hence the idea of how to bring the weather indoors by exhibiting pieces that are either sound absorbing or sound creating.

It is impressive to move between the four exhibition rooms at Nicolai, in turn each room dedicated to the Sun, the Wind etc and one must even pass the Eddy in a hallway. The three artists involved had worked with the subject in an intersection between sound, textiles and architecture. Everywhere one is surrounded with sculptures of fabrics, hanging tapestries and weatherly sounds, so it is not only an audibly but also a visually exciting exhibition.

One of the artists is the musician Johan Segerberg, who has invented and shows various sorts of contraptions, interactive installations, which if moved create sound or light. The architect Cecilie Bendixen exhibits large airy sculptures made of fabrics, strings and wooden constructions. They hang under the ceilings, pleated, bubbling or twisting light formations of fabric; especially impressing is her piece “Sol”, rather it is a half-sun rising from the floor. It is almost as large as the room itself, a perfect half-ball of fabric hung from a thousand strings in the ceiling, light yet substantial. One is invited to go inside and activate a sound-and-light installation. At the day of the opening there was also a few comments heard admiring the sheer scale of construction.

However, from a craft-point-of-view Lise Froelund’s hand-woven tapestries capture our attention. The Wind-room featured several hangings with windswept trees, all in a black and white graphic interpretations, added one or two colours. Very impressing is her piece “West wind”. It is of a long hedgerow as you find them between fields in the western part of Denmark, and with its length of 4 meters, it hangs crisp in its blue, white, black composition hand-woven in rayon and linen.

Focus point of OPEN WINDOW UNITS is, however, Lise Froelund’s large piece “Sea”, consisting of four separate tapestries. It is hand-woven in only six shades of coloured paper on a linen warp, and she masters to bring out a stunning photographic effect of waves and people on the beach. A pair of binoculars are available and by using them reversely when looking at “Sea” one experience a vivid lifelike and three-dimensional view. Lise Froelund has achieved this by using digital work processes in combination with the weaving on her old style wooden loom. The result is nothing less than mesmerizing. Her tapestry “Apple”, available here at MintCrafts, features that same special effect.

OPEN WINDOW UNITS will move to Copenhagen and the Island of Moen later this autumn/winter.

Read more about Lise Froelund. www.lisefrolund.dk

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