



Arne Vinje Gunnerud – Urbus
Lene Baadsvig Ørmen – Subterranea
25 May – 7 July 2019

We are pleased to present two artists from different generations who, in each their own way, challenge the norms of bronze sculpture. What they share in common is that they both represent an excess of playfulness, curiosity and emancipated thought.

Arne Vinje Gunnerud made his debut at 23 years of age and went on to have a career extending over more than 50 years. His varied and expressive sculptures testify to him having developed one of the most free-thinking and energetic artistic practices in Norwegian art history. Even with his classical education under Per Palle Storm at the art academy in Oslo, he chose early on to follow his own path. Surface structures, ornamentation, colour, contrasts and the play of light were, for him, as important as form. Gunnerud challenged the classical canon in several ways. For instance, he gave narratives from antiquity an expression that broke with the classical ideal, and he used formal elements from the Iron Age in sculptures steeped in Old Norse mythology. This led him to experiment in ways that were unusual at the time. He could paint the bronze in bright colours and drew on many sources of inspiration, experiencing them all as universal and immediate. The exhibition presents 22 works: two in the park and 20 smaller works mounted indoors.

At the core of Lene Baadsvig Ørmen's artistic practice is a fascination for what we think, sense and feel when encountering sculptures and foreign forms and cultures. Her works often relate to anthropology and our desire to understand our environment and other human beings. The exhibition *Subterranea* explores the complex relationship between man and animal, the primitive and the civilized and the rational and the irrational. The titular term points to things existing or operating underground, or activities unfolding in secret. The exhibition bears the same title as the partly figurative bronze works that border between two-dimensional reliefs and three-dimensional sculptures, all shaped and sand casted in Ørmen's own studio. Ørmen also presents the sculpture (W)hole, located in the park, and the piece *Beat* on the gallery's upper level.

Arne Vinje Gunnerud (1930–2007) attended Kunst- og håndverksskolen and Kunstakademiet in Oslo. His works were exhibited widely in his lifetime. He held large solo exhibitions at Bomuldsfabrikken kunsthall, Arendal (2001), Kunstnerforbundet, Oslo (1965, '73, '77, '80 and '91) and was the special exhibitor for Bergen International Festival (1978). He was represented in numerous international exhibitions, including *Biennale de Paris* (1963), *Bienal de Sao Paulo* (1969) and *Skulpturbiennale*, Antwerpen (1979). Gunnerud created over 100 works of public art. His sculptures are in important collections such as that of the National Museum, Oslo Municipality and Arts Council Norway. The works in this exhibition are on loan from private collectors and Aust-Agder Museum and Archive.

Lene Baadsvig Ørmen (b. 1984) studied at Kunsthøgskolen, Bergen (BA), Estonian Academy of the Arts (Erasmus exchange programme) and Kunstakademiet, Oslo (MA). Since completing her education in 2013, she has held solo exhibitions at Gallery Augusta in Helsinki (2017), Kunstnerforbundet (2016), UKS (2015), Kunsthall Stavanger (2015) and Another Space, Copenhagen (2014). She has also participated in several group exhibitions, including at Akershus Kunstsenter (2018), Galerieie Mikael Andersen, Copenhagen (2017), Kunsthall Oslo (2017) Viborg Kunsthall (2017), the *Drawing Biennial* at Tegnerforbundet (2016) and Autocenter, Berlin (2016). This summer she will also participate in *Fiskars Village Art & Design Biennale* in Finland.

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