

Guest at Kunstbüro reillplast:

**CANVAS CONTEXT CASH**  
**KAREN PONTOPPIDAN**

12 – 16 March 2014

Opening: 12 March, 6 pm  
Aperitivo: Friday, 14 March 2014, 5 pm

Amalienstr. 21, 80333 München  
Opening hours: daily 10 am – 7 pm

In the trilogy **CANVAS CONTEXT CASH**, presented for the first time in Munich as a cohesive work group, Karen Pontoppidan takes her stand in the non-ending debate on the relation between the free and applied arts, and particularly between painting/drawing on the one hand and the identity of the contemporary goldsmith on the other. Born in Kerteminde/Denmark, she has dealt with this topic time and again under a variety of headings in the course of her complex biographical trajectory and has in fact devoted her energies essentially to this problem to have her work resonate with it in a series of steps. Against the backdrop of her previous works her recent objects can be seen as a matured conclusion creating interstices of humour and irony and presenting a jewellery that renders the viewer thoughtful and yet never ceases to “clothe” the wearer.

**CANVAS** consists of geometrical bodies of wood wrapped in canvas and beset with jewellery quotes like embossed ornaments, appliquéd medallions or floral décor. Art and craft unite in a cheerful conspiracy. **CONTEXT** fathoms out further possibilities of this terrain and reaches out for bolder forms – in the way of a response to a rising trend that intends to eliminate all individual traits involved in the artistic process or as intrinsic elements of an artistic strategy. Pontoppidan commissions befriended painters to colour the interior of miniature boxes of industrial canvas, leaving the job of binding to other colleagues. The whole set consists of 99 objects and functions as a witty and enigmatic comment on a common practice in contemporary art. **CASH** constitutes something like a concluding remark on the economic system associated with aesthetic behaviour. Art reveals itself more and more as a simple definition, dependant on things like context, success and the ambience, in which the individual objects are anchored.

Thus we find ourselves treading on an elastic ground generating value shifts and hybrid creatures. Contemporary jewellery has become part of such a trend, involving positions that associate themselves with the general discourse of art and respond to it by means of an aesthetic language that is immanent to its material. Karen Pontoppidan's work is one such voice.

A jewellery artist with an absolutely avantgarde breeding, she worked from 2000 till 2006 as an assistant to Otto Künzli and since 2006 as a professor at the Konstfack in Stockholm. Although she mercilessly eradicates all traditionalistic temptations besetting jewellery art, although her work displays a strong proclivity towards things like absurdity, defamiliarization and play, she values her background in jewellery and the goldsmith's craft, even though this is not always immediately visible. Were that not the case, her "nasty" approach could never be quite so effective. For the process involved in her work jewellery is subjected to a mysterious transformation, with conceptual action and critical reflection on the one hand and aesthetic and ornamental recapitulation on the other melting into a compact and handy form.



VITA KAREN PONTOPPIDAN:

1968 born in Kerteminde, Denmark  
1986-88 apprenticeship with Gerda Lynggaard / Monies, Copenhagen / DK  
1988-91 "Berufskolleg für Formgebung, Schmuck und Gerät",  
Schwäbisch Gmünd / Germany  
1991-97 Studies at the Accademy of Fine Arts, Munich, with Prof. Otto Künzli  
1995-97 as master student  
1998 Diploma  
seit 1997 Studio in Munich

teaching activity:

2000-06 Assistent of Prof. Otto Künzli, Akademie der Bildenden Künste, Munich  
2003/04 Guest professor, University of Applied Sciences, Düsseldorf  
2005/06 Guest professor, University of Applied Sciences, Pforzheim  
seit 2006 Professor, Ädellab Konstfack Univesity College of Arts, Crafts and  
Design, Stockholm / S

Lectures and speeches in:

Finnland, Sweden, Denmark, Japan, Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Israel,  
Austria, USA, Italy, Norway.

Solo exhibitions:

2013 *Context*, Galerie Rob Koudijs, Amsterdam / NL  
2012 *Besser mit als ohne*, Munich / G  
2011 *Canvas*, Galerie Rob Koudijs, Amsterdam / NL  
*Canvas*, Galerie Spektrum, Munich / G  
*Adaptation*, Galerie V + V, Vienna / A  
2010 *Teach u sto outgrow our madness*, Galeria Platina, Stockholm / S  
2009 *Familyportraits*, Galerie Rob Koudijs, Amsterdam / NL  
2008 *Familyportraits*, Galerie Spektrum, Munich / G  
*Familyportraits*, Gallery Jeweler's Werk, Washington DC / USA  
*Familyportraits*, Museum Villa Bengel, Idar- Oberstein / G  
2007 *Welcome to my world*, Gallery Konsthantverkama, Stockholm / S  
2006 *Ebb and flow*, Galleria Maurer Zilioli, Desenzano del Garda / I  
*Strangely familiar*, Gallery Jeweler's werk, Washington DC / USA  
*An dich gedacht*, Galerie V + V, Vienna / A  
2005 *Maniacal botanical*, Galerie Louise Smit, Amsterdam / NL  
*Strangely familiar*, Gallery Verzameld Werk, Gent / B  
2004 *Anima*, Gallery Hnoss, Göteborg / S  
2003 *It takes two to tango*, Galerie Louise Smit, Amsterdam / NL  
*Das Tier in mir*, Galerie Spektrum, Munich / D

- 2002 *A twist of beauty*, Gallery Jeweler's Werk, Washington DC / USA  
*Das Tier in mir*, Galerie V + V, Vienna / A  
*Chiffre/Dechiffre*, Galerie Hermsen, Wiesbaden / G
- 2011 *Tankevaeker*, Gladsaxe Hovedbibliotek, Copenhagen / DK
- 2000 *Smating og Mirakler*, Gallery Metal, Copenhagen / DK  
*Schöne Aussichten*, Galerie Spektrum, Munich / G
- 1999 *Anatomie und Entomologie*, Galerie Françoise Heitzsch, Munich / G
- 1997 *Karen Pontoppidan*, Galerie Neuer Schmuck, Hannover / G  
*Täglich Neu: Kennerüberraschung*, Ausstellungsraum Balanstrasse, Munich / G
- 1996 *H. and P. Fine Jewellery*, U-Bahn-Galerie der Akademie der Bildenden Künste, Munich / G

## VITA KAREN PONTOPPIDAN:

1968 geboren in Kerteminde, Dänemark  
1986-88 Lehre bei Gerda Lynggaard / Monies, Kopenhagen / DK  
1988-91 Ausbildung am Berufskolleg für Formgebung, Schmuck und Gerät,  
Schwäbisch Gmünd / D  
1991-97 Studium an der Akademie der Bildenden Künste, München, bei Prof. Otto Künzli  
1995-97 als Meisterschülerin  
1998 Diplom  
seit 1997 Atelier in München

## Lehrtätigkeiten:

2000-06 Assistentin von Prof. Otto Künzli, Akademie der Bildenden Künste, München  
2003/04 Gastprofessur, University of Applied Sciences, Düsseldorf  
2005/06 Gastprofessur, University of Applied Sciences, Pforzheim  
seit 2006 Professorin, Ädellab Konstfack Univesity College of Arts, Crafts and  
Design, Stockholm / S

## Workshops und Vorträge in:

Finnland, Schweden, Dänemark, Japan, Niederlande, Deutschland, Schweiz, Israel,  
Österreich USA, Italien, Norwegen.

## Einzelausstellungen:

2013 *Context*, Galerie Rob Koudijs, Amsterdam / NL  
2012 *Besser mit als ohne*, München / D  
2011 *Canvas*, Galerie Rob Koudijs, Amsterdam / NL  
*Canvas*, Galerie Spektrum, München / D  
*Adaptation*, Galerie V + V, Wien / A  
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