



GRAB

CHRISTIAN LEMMERZ

HORSENS ARTMUSEUM

The seven large bronze reliefs “Grab I-VII” was in 2009 exhibited at The National Gallery of Denmark, as part of the exhibition “Largo”. Together the artworks at the exhibition formed a composite image of death as a topic. The viewer was greeted by a shovel, a rose, a coffin, a large bell and the bronze reliefs which all played a part in the collective story and feeling of the exhibition.

Since the beginning of the 1980s, Christian Lemmerz has worked with death as a theme in his artworks in various ways. One of the main concerns Christian Lemmerz has, is that he wants us neither to forget nor suppress the eminent feeling of death always being all around us. As human beings we should always be aware of our existence and its final end being death: that we all at some point must be confronted with death. Death should be relevant and present matter to us; something Christian Lemmerz poetically and beautifully but also quite disturbingly communicates through “Grab I-VII”.

When the reliefs were exhibited at the exhibition “Largo” they were patinated with a black color. Today the color of the bronze appears greener/blue because of the natural development of the patina. In some ways, the artwork almost seems like a living thing, as the surface of the bronze constantly changes over time given the way the artwork is stored or where it is exhibited, being inside or outside.





In “Grab I-VII” the presence of death is manifested through the art in a way that can be felt, both physically and mentally. The weight of the sinister topic hits one as an audience, when one is looking at the almost 800 kilo bronze reliefs. A collection of skulls appearing from the bronze material stare directly at the viewer wherever you go, as if they were still alive and ready to emerge from the heavy bronze material. “Grab I-VII” was formed and casted at Skulpturstøberiet in Svenborg, Denmark. Christian Lemmerz worked with real skulls in his process of working with creating the reliefs. They were pressed down in a large crate of sand lying on the ground, and afterwards the form was casted in bronze.

Christian Lemmerz, b. 1959, is a German-Danish visual artist educated at the academy in Carrara in Italy 1978-82 and at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen 1983-88. The last time Christian Lemmerz exhibited at Horsens Art Museum was in 2013 with the exhibition "Christian Lemmerz – Eine Gruppenausstellung". Horsens Art Museum has a collection of Christian Lemmerz artworks that focuses on his artworks from 1985 to this day.

The exhibition and the installation of the reliefs are supported by: Augustinus Fonden, Statens Kunstfond, Knud Højgårds Fond, Aage og Johanne Louis-Hansens Fond, Insero Horsens, Overretssagfører L. Zeuthens Mindelegat, 15. Juni Fonden, Familien Hede Nielsens Fond og Beckett Fonden.

