



12 July - 1 September 2023

MORTEN SKRÖDER LUND & LAURA NÍ FHLAIBHÍN: WET SUCTION SPINS FOREVER

Opening reception: 11 July 6-8pm

Belmacz's summer 2023 exhibition, *Wet Suction Spins Forever*, can be seen as an entangled conversation; a fluid courting, where extra-humanly sensations become the substrate for an anomalous ecology. Cultivated by artist Laura Ní Fhlaibhín, in this exhibition a series of recent paintings by Morten Skróder Lund are contextualised alongside changing, changeable ecosystems. Effusing one another, here abstracted gestures rub up with nature, dissolving and germinating, creating a restive tension within the space of the gallery.

Morten Skróder Lund's paintings are dense microcosms. Gestating since late 2022, the small square canvasses in this exhibition are brittle memories, re-visioned and re-visioned, in fleshy dabs of oil. Wholly unfixed, here matter vibrates upon and all over surfaces appearing slick, almost sticky; a sensual encounter suspended yet seeping. For Morten, abstraction—his main means of visioning the meticulous research at the centre of his practice—is a means through which he is able to shatter the hard surfaces of the didact world. In the works for this exhibition, abstraction is used as a process, one that suspends both time and narrative, in order to foreground the flows of muscular thinking. That is, a process through which to vision the unfixable tensions of humanly life.

Wet Suction Spins Forever, will be Morten's third presentation with Belmacz. Here, hung high upon the gallery's walls, the surfaces of these reverberating paintings become rousing constellations, and a context nurtured by Laura Ní Fhlaibhín in order to enliven her own dynamic ecosystems.

Composed from mobile ash-wood planters, filled with cucumber vines and vivacious greenery, Laura's ecosystems are generous sites dedicated and designed to foreground the knowledge-bodies of Leopard Slugs. Throughout *Wet Suction Spins Forever*, Laura's ecosystems will not just vision life, in its three-dimensional form, but house life as earthly structures hosting regular visits from a cornucopia of Leopard Slugs. (It is of note that Laura's ecosystems and the activation of these through the slug visits has been developed in conversation with the senior curator of molluscs at Natural History Museum London.) Building upon her project *Slug Love*, that embraces the learning experiences afforded by the acrobatic mating rituals of Leopard slugs—experiences that Laura presents in this exhibition through an edible potato paper sex guide—the earthly environments established by Laura not only foregrounds the perspective of slugs but, alongside Morten's paintings, provides a platform from which we are able to glimmer new possibilities for humanly life; those given when we embrace an erotics found in fluid ways of life.

Morten Skróder Lund (b.1980, Vejle, Denmark), completed his MFA at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts under the supervision of Professor Tumi Magnusson. Seemingly bombastic, the mass of impasto that form the surfaces of Morten's paintings skit between the associative and the free flowing. Here, experimentation and chance allow the artist to conjure highly abstract constellations where the formal process creates a dissociative logic. Debased of a totalising script, Morten's paintings comprise of multiple narratives. In this way, each canvas has a particularly gestalt feel and visuality; one where the mind slips between and through differing psycho-phantasmagoric states.

Selected exhibitions include: *Lys over Lolland*, Sukkerfabrikken, Denmark (2019); *Parterre*, Kunstscenen, Copenhagen (2019); *merge*, Christian Andersen, Copenhagen (2018); *ome*, Belmacz, London (2018); *Occupied With Imaginations*, Galleri Ping-Pong, Malmö (2018); *IF YOU DON'T LIKE ART, GOODBYE, FUCK OFF, GO-HOME...*, Nordic Contemporary Art Collection, Vestfossen (2017); *Becoming Zero*, Galleri Flach, Stockholm (2017); *Yey, an unusual way of spelling yay*, Jir Sandel, Los Angeles (2016); *Mustang*, LTD Gallery, Los Angeles (2016); *Lyst*, Christian Andersen, Copenhagen (2015); *Group Show V*, Alexander Levy, Berlin (2014); *Wellbound*, Belmacz, London (2014); *Circus T M*, Belmacz, London (2014); *Hang*, Christian Andersen, Copenhagen (2013); *il monaco*, Ringsted Galleriet, Ringsted (2013); *Ibur*, with Jonas Jensen, NoMad, Frankfurt (2012); *Master*, Christian Andersen, Copenhagen (2011); *Such a Short Memorial Form*, Phonebos IMO, Copenhagen (2010); *Brief Relief*, Koh-i-noor, Copenhagen (2008); *Moist Envelope*, Henningsen Contemporary, Copenhagen (2008).

Morten's paintings feature in the public collection of the Danish Arts Council, Copenhagen.

Laura Ni Fhlaibhín completed her MFA at Goldsmiths, University of London in 2019 and her BA at the National College of Art and Design, Dublin in 2013. She lives and works between London and Ireland. Laura Ni Fhlaibhín works with materials related to healing and nourishment. Sifting stories, materials and traces associated with site, memory, myth, narratives of care and the casting of spells, she creates complex but pithy material scenarios. These may incorporate condensed sculptural images, drawings, text, performance and formal gatherings of elements that serve as ritual artefacts and talismans. Care is both represented and inscribed in the material and narrative improvisations that are interwoven in her sculptural assemblages.

Selected exhibitions include: *Wet Wishes*, solo show at Britta Rettberg gallery, Munich (2023); *Wishes for a wet warm afterlife by the blue willow pleasure pool*, solo show Green on Red Gallery, Dublin (2022); *Slug Love*, solo project, Luna Elaine Project Space, London (2022); *Our Lot*, site specific project, Bermondsey (2022); *Materials for virtue/Incandescent flare*, Britta Rettberg gallery, Munich (2022), *Trailblazer*, solo show at Pallas Projects Dublin (2021); *Beuys Open Source*, Belmacz, London (2021); *Conditions*, Croydon, London (2021); *Society of Nature*, On Curating, Zurich (2021); *Gargle*, BowArts Almacantar, (2020); *Róisín, silver, rockie*, solo show at Palfrey, London (2020); *Tulca* Festival of Visual Arts, Galway (2021 and 2018); *Deptford X*, London (2018); *Dodecagon*, Space Union, Seoul, (2017); *Lamellae*, The Lab, Dublin (2016).

Laura's work features in the Arts Council of Ireland collection. She is the recipient of Goldsmiths Almacantar Bursary 2019, Next Generation Award 2020, ACE Developing Creative Practice Award 2021 and was shortlisted for Mark Tanner Sculpture Award 2023.