

ESBEN WEILE KJÆR

Esben Weile Kjær (b. 1992, Copenhagen) graduated from the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in 2022, having previously completed his studies in Music Management at the Rhythmic Music Conservatory, Copenhagen. Interested in identity politics in the age of constantly evolving new media, his performance, installation, and stained-glass work examines his generation's construction of selfhood and the rise of popular culture and technology in determining one's experience of community and authenticity. Though the artist lives in Denmark, his practice is heavily informed by "The American Dream." His curiosity is sparked by theme parks, toys-as-branding, and the complete consumerist meltdown in the West.

Kjær has performed at MUMOK, Vienna (2023); the Centre Pompidou, Paris (2022); the Tinguely Museum, Basel (2022); the National Gallery of Denmark (2019); and the New Carlsberg Foundation, Copenhagen (2022). Solo exhibitions have been held at Museum of Contemporary Art, Roskilde (2020); Copenhagen Contemporary (2020); and Kunstforening GL Strand, Copenhagen (2020). In 2023, Kjær was invited to curate the ARKEN Museum of Modern Art's permanent collection, and to perform BUTTERFLY! Following his exhibition with Albion Jeune, Kjær is preparing for exhibitions at the Kunsten Museum of Modern Art, Aalborg, in 2024, Salzburg Kunstverein, in 2025, and Rudolph Tegn timers Museum, Dronningmølle, in 2025. Kjær was awarded the Carl Nielsen & Anne Marie Carl-Nielsens Foundation Talent Award. His work is in the permanent collection of Malmö Art Museum, Sweden, and Brandts Museum, Denmark.

CV

Born in 1992, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Lives and works in Copenhagen, Denmark.

EDUCATION

2022 The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen, Denmark

2022 Städelschule, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

2015 Rythmic Music Conservatory, Copenhagen, Denmark

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

2025 Rudolph Tegner Museum and Statue Park, Dronningmølle, Denmark

Salzburg Kunstverein, Salzburg, Austria

2024 *Collider*, Museum der Moderne, Salzburg, Austria

Collider, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul, South Korea

Solar System, Kunsten Museum of Modern Art, Aalborg, Denmark

Andersen's, Copenhagen, Denmark

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2023 *I Want to Believe*, Albion Jeune, London, UK

Light Dancer, Inter.pblc, Copenhagen, Denmark

2022 *HYPER!*, BFI, Miami, FL, USA

Keep it Real, Magic Stop, Lausanne, Switzerland

Complete Collapse, Andersen's, Copenhagen, Denmark

2021 *Anxiety of influence* with Yvette Brackman, Four Boxes, Skive, Denmark

Hardcore Freedom Revisited, Zeller von Almstock, Curated By, Vienna, Austria

Letters for Julian Luxford, Kunsthal Aarhus BBC, Frederiksberg, Denmark

Letters for Julian Luxford, Art Sonje Center, Seoul, South Korea

Public Drama, Magasin du Nord, Copenhagen, Denmark

Advertise, Hypnotise, Traumatise, FABRIKKEN, Copenhagen, Denmark

2020 *Hardcore Freedom*, Copenhagen Contemporary, Copenhagen, Denmark

Power Play, Kunstforeningen GL Strand, Copenhagen, Denmark

Campaign, Museum of Contemporary Art, Roskilde, Denmark

2019 *Dance with the devil*, Vestjyllands Art Pavillion, Videbæk, Denmark

2017 *Club Gluttony*, UB ART, Stockholm, Sweden

2016 *How to Neo-tribe?*, Souvenir Official, Berlin, Germany

You can't fake this monument of movement, Politikens Forhal, Copenhagen, Denmark

Radical Togetherness, Oslo 10, Basel, Switzerland

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2023 Kunsthal Charlottenborg Biennale, Denmark

- Public Announcement, Roskilde, Denmark
- 2022 *Another Surrealism*, Museum of Modern Art, Tønder, Denmark
- Jeg star op med jordens mylder*, Kunstø, Samsø, Denmark
- Another Surrealism*, Den Frie Centre of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, Denmark
- Move*, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France
- Bang Bang*, Museum Tinguely, Basel, Switzerland
- Afgang*, Kunsthall Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, Denmark
- The Clown Kingdom*, House of Denmark, Paris, France
- 2021 *Forever Mall*, Shoot the Lobster, Los Angeles, CA, USA
- MONSTERSUPPE*, KØS Museum of Art in Public Spaces, Køge, Denmark
- 2020 *Ghost House*, Den Frie Centre of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, Denmark
- Wearables*, Etage Projects, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2019 *Window Shopper*, CHART Art Fair, Copenhagen, Denmark
- Mellemting mellem ting*, Den Frie Centre of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, Denmark
- Tending Towards*, Tinos Quarry Platform, Tinos, Greece
- Tending Towards*, Museum of Modern Queer Art, Athens, Greece
- Ulvetime*, Kunsthall Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2018 *Jugend ist Trunkenheit ohne Wein*, Bikini Space, Basel, Switzerland
- Kunsnerness Påskeudstilling 2018*, Kunsthall, Aarhus, Denmark
- 2017 *NO REGRETS of tomorrow's SORROWS*, Future Suburban Contemporary, Copenhagen, Denmark
- Anybody*, Aarhus 2017, Aarhus, Denmark
- LAST MINUTE BUSINESS*, Adult, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2016 *SOMEDAY A REAL RAIN WILL COME AND WASH ALL THE SCUM OFF THE STREETS*, Nordic Contemporary, Paris, France
- Closest Thing to Wearing Nothing*, M.I, Berlin, Germany

2015 Mørkekammer, Vandrehallen, Hillerød, Denmark

PERFORMANCES

2024 Museum Moderne Kunst, Salzburg, Austria (UPCOMING)

2023 *I Want to Believe*, Albion Jeune, London, UK (UPCOMING)

BURN!, Mumok, Vienna, Austria

DE-ESCALATE, Basel Social Club, Basel, Switzerland

HYPER!, CBS, Copenhagen, Denmark

2022 *The Big Gang Bang Theory* with Maja Malou Lyse, Art in a day, Copenhagen, Denmark

COLLIDER, New Carlsberg Foundation, Folkemødet, Bornholm, Denmark

Night Journeys, Berghain, Berlin, Germany

Night Journeys, Den Frie Centre of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, Denmark

Sun!, Voo store, Berlin, Germany

2021 *Departure in affection*, Marienlyst Castle, Elsinore, Denmark

Entertainment Architecture, Aarhus School of Architecture, Aarhus, Denmark

The Big Gang Bang Theory, with Maja Malou Lyse, *Another map to Nevada*,

Copenhagen's Waterways, Den Frie Centre of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen,
Denmark

BURN!, Kunsten Museum of Modern Art, Aalborg, Denmark

BURN!, Gallery Steinsland Berliner, Stockholm, Sweden

2020 *Pride is temporary*, Gegenwart, Hamburg, Germany

ALL OVER THE PLACE, with Emma Rosenzweig, UP CLOSE Performance Festival, Det

Classenske Bibliotek, New Carlsberg Foundation, Copenhagen, Denmark

2019 *Have you ever been afraid*, Den Frie Centre of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen,
Denmark

Have you ever been afraid, Paris Internationale, Paris, France

Have you ever been afraid, Athens Museum of Queer Arts, Athens, Greece

BURN!, DR (Danish Broadcasting Corporation), Copenhagen, Denmark

BURN!, Copenhagen International Fashion Fair, Copenhagen, Denmark

BURN!, SMK (National Gallery of Denmark), Copenhagen, Denmark

Pride is temporary, Ashley Berlin, Berlin, Germany

Pride is temporary, Vestjyllands Kunstpavillion, Videbæk, Denmark

Born to be wild, HC Andersen Festival, Odense, Denmark

2018

Sun!, Kunstforeningen GL STRAND, Copenhagen, Denmark

Sun!, Code Art Fair, Copenhagen, Denmark

Sun!, Kunsthal Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, Denmark

Sun!, KBH Litteratur Festival, Skive, Denmark

We built this city, KØS Museum of Art in Public Spaces, Køge, Denmark

We built this city, Axel Arigato, Copenhagen, Denmark

Who needs guitars anyway, with Anne Sofie Madsen, Blake and Vargas, Berlin, Germany

2017

EVIG!, with Madeleine Kate McGowan, ARoS Aarhus Art Museum, Aarhus, Denmark

Level of Glamour, with Anne Sofie Madsen, The Italian Embassy, Copenhagen, Denmark

Never have I ever, Age of Aquarius, Copenhagen, Denmark

My hear beats faster than techno, DanseAtelier, Copenhagen, Denmark

2016

You can't fake this monument of movement, Copenhagen Contemporary, Copenhagen, Denmark

How to Neo-tribe?, Tranen Space for Contemporary Art, Hellerup, Denmark

I wish I was a punk rocker with flowers in my hair, Karlin Studios, Prague, Czech Republic

This could be identification for new subcultures, Overgaden – Institute for Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, Denmark

This could be identification for new subcultures, M.I, Berlin, Germany

ATHEN, Den Frie Centre of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, Denmark

- 2015 *Reality*, Den Frie Centre of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2014 *Birthday Bash*, Nikolaj Kunsthal, Copenhagen, Denmark

CURATORIAL WORK

- 2023 *BUTTERFLY!*, Arken Museum of Modern Art, Ishøj, Denmark
- 2018 *Alt_Cph – Over-existing*, with Anna Weile Kjær, FABRIKKEN for Kunst og Design, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2017 *Institut for Success 2*, with Mira Winding, Dina Friemuth, Anna Weile Kjær, Jeppe Ugelvig, Maja Malou Lyse, and Anne Sofie Madsen, SMK (National Gallery of Denmark), Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2016 *Institut for Success 1*, Kunstforeninger GL STRAND, Copenhagen, Denmark

AWARDS

- 2022 Carl Nielsen & Anne Marie Carl-Nielsen's Foundation Talent Award

PERMANENT COLLECTIONS

- Arken Museum of Modern Art, Ishøj, Denmark
- Brandts Museum, Odense, Denmark
- Malmø Kunstmuseum, Malmø, Sweden

FILM FESTIVALS

- 2021 *Industries of freedom*, with Freja Sofie Kirk, CPH_DOX, Copenhagen, Denmark
- Industries of freedom*, with Freja Sofie Kirk, Rencontres Internationales Paris & Berlin