

# Three solo exhibitions present groundbreaking weaving, virtual reality from a psychiatric ward, and sound installations that reveal our vastly different ways of perceiving reality

Press Release

In April and May, O—Overgaden presents no less than three exhibitions, moving across generations and media, with Annette Holdensen's woven works, which for more than half a century have paved the way for the needlework of the contemporary art scene, Alexander Tillegreen's demonstration of the ability of words to create psychological illusions, and Line Finderup Jensen's virtual reality works taking inspiration from her period of illness in the world of psychiatry.

## **Alexander Tillegreen**

*Shift*

2 April – 22 May 2022

Vernissage: Friday 1 April, 17–21h

In a world full of conflicting perceptions of reality, visual artist and composer Alexander Tillegreen shows us, with his sound works, how we can listen together but hear very different things from each other. For his first Danish solo exhibition, at O—Overgaden, he has created an auditory experience made up of psychologically determined “phantom words”, which take on different shapes according to the ear that perceives them, showing us what happens when our senses struggle to decode the world.

The phenomenon of “phantom word illusions” was discovered by the English psychology professor Diana Deutsch and denotes the words that our brains automatically form when we listen to indefinable words, in an attempt to create meaning out of something otherwise incomprehensible. These word illusions are shaped not only by an individual's personal memories, linguistic background, and state of mind, but also by the listener's movements within the room. Thus, Tillegreen holds up an acoustic mirror to each visitor to the exhibition.

The exhibition's sound works are accompanied by Tillegreen's painting, photography, and works on paper, as well as two spatial installations: a listening room with changing light examines how we decode sound, and an installation of glass heads thematizes how we all listen from various perspectives. The exhibition's site-specific photographs of O—Overgaden's architecture have been formed by Tillegreen using disorienting hazy layers, which makes it difficult to orientate oneself within them, and in the abstract paintings he has distorted small characters in relation to something figuratively recognizable.

With both sound and image, Tillegreen blurs the familiar layers of meaning we usually use to navigate. In this way, the senses step in and demonstrate how we decode the world around us from vastly different starting points.

Tillegreen's phantom word works stem from a research paper on phantom words developed by researchers at the Max Planck Institute in Frankfurt. As part of the exhibition, he invites visitors to contribute to his research by sharing their listening experiences via a QR code.

The exhibition is supported by the Danish Arts Foundation, the Danish Art Workshops, Bestles Foundation, and Knud Højgaards Fond.

Alexander Tillegreen (b. 1991, DK) graduated from the Städelschule in Frankfurt and the Cooper Union School of Art, New York. Since 2019, Tillegreen has conducted interdisciplinary artistic research in collaboration with several researchers in psychology, voice aesthetics, and linguistics at the Max Planck Institute for Empirical Aesthetics in Frankfurt. In the spring of 2022, his solo exhibition opens at the FuturDome Museum in Milan, and in the autumn of 2022 he will release his first solo album on the German record company raster-media.

For further information, interviews, and press photos, please contact Line Brædder.  
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