

Line Finderup
Jensen

Ingen
udgang før
gennemgang



ISBN: 978-87-94311-03-8
EAN: 9788794311038

Line Finderup Jensen
No Exit Prior to Orientation
Exhibition period: 02.04.2022 – 22.05.2022

O-OVERGADEN
neden vandet 17, 1414 København K,
overgaden.org

No Exit Prior to Orientation

• FOREWORD

With the exhibition *No Exit Prior to Orientation*, Danish artist and game designer Line Finderup Jensen takes her own psychiatric hospitalization as her point of departure.

Rather than a personal story about illness, the exhibition distances itself from the artist in order to investigate the systems and authoritarian positions that we grant an objective truth value. By working with virtual reality and animations, among other things, Finderup Jensen dislocates the notion of reality and activates a participating audience in the aim of renegotiating the “true story”.

With a light blue vinyl floor, pale yellow walls, and the mandatory waiting room plants, we step inside *Ward: 801*, a total installation that is both a physical simulation of hospital architecture and a virtual recollection of Finderup Jensen’s memory of the ward. By wearing the VR glasses, visitors are invited to step inside Finderup Jensen’s memory and “play” her stay at the ward by walking around the hospital and meeting staff and patients in different situations. The other work in the exhibition is the impressive video installation *What If I Am Not An Übermensch?* in which the animated faces of ten healthcare workers appear on large screens. As a polyphonic choir of diagnosing voices, they read in turns from Finderup Jensen’s medical record with the viewer positioned in “the hot seat”, encircled by scrutinizing gazes. This work questions the truth value of the medical record and points to the difficult relationship between healthcare systems and the vulnerable patient. Who owns the story of illness: hospital or patient? And where is the personal, porous memory positioned when faced with the power of the diagnosis? With her combination of playful, interactive game elements and absurd accounts from

the healthcare institution, Finderup Jensen creates not only an important institutional critique, but also provides us with insights from universally human scenes that invite us to reflect on our own truths.

In 2021, O—Overgaden launched a series of new, monographic publications in relation to our solo exhibitions. In its essence, this series focuses on new voices in the Danish art scene and on elevating these into a broader conversation and a larger followership. Each edition in the series is published both in print – with a special, grand fold-out poster as its cover – and as a free-to-download PDF version on O—Overgaden’s website.

The series of publications has been made possible through generous support from the Augustinus Foundation for which we are extremely grateful. We also wish to thank Beckett-Fonden, the Danish Arts Foundation, William Demant Fonden, the Danish National Bank’s Jubilæumsfond, Den Hilmstierne Rosencroneske Stiftelse, and the Visual Arts Council in Copenhagen for their support of the exhibition. A particular warm thank you to curator Frederike Sperling who, in her essay on Finderup Jensen’s work, holds up a critical mirror to the neoliberal care of our present day. Thanks also to O—Overgaden’s in-house editor Nanna Friis who has been in conversation with Line about the system’s devastating patenting of reality and who has also edited this publication in close collaboration with our graphic designers from fanfare, César Rogers and Miquel Hervás Gómez. As always, heartfelt thanks to the entire team at O—Overgaden who, in collaboration with Line, have curated, constructed, and mediated the exhibition. And the biggest thank you, of course, goes to Line Finderup Jensen herself, especially for her courage to create an exhibition this personal, humorous, and unsentimental, and also for contributing to the important conversation about young people’s mental health today.

Aukje Lepoutre Ravn,
Interim Director, O—Overgaden

GLITCHING NEOLIBERAL CARE

Frederike Sperling

"The most anti-capitalist protest is to care for another and to care for yourself... To take seriously each other's vulnerability and fragility and precarity, and to support it, honor it, empower it. To protect each other, to enact and practice community. A radical kinship, an interdependent sociality, a politics of care. Because, once we are all ill and confined to the bed... perhaps then, finally, capitalism will screech to its much-needed long-overdue, and motherfucking glorious halt."

- Johanna Hedva, *Sick Woman Theory* (2016)

"Psychiatry, politics and art are ideologies, and ideologies conceal truth, deform vision, dogmatise the response to a certain situation... Is anyone being cured in psychiatric hospitals? Is there such a thing as psychiatric illness?"

- Dora García, *Radical Politics, Radical Psychiatry, Radical Art* (2010)

Line Finderup Jensen's exhibition *No Exit Prior to Orientation* at O—Overgaden comes at a time in which the category "care" is fundamentally at stake. The Covid-19 pandemic has once more revealed the inability of neoliberal capitalism to care for humans and more-than-humans. To approach care as an active verb, to conceive of it as a condition rather than a commodity, is simply incompatible with a system that capitalizes on your constant availability, your functionality, your conformity with its rules and norms. "Neoliberalism... has neither an effective practice of, nor a vocabulary for, care", as The Care Collective proclaimed in their book *The Care Manifesto* (2020).¹ This is not to say that there are not plenty of corrective institutions like psychiatric hospitals or that there are not sufficient psychotherapeutic drugs available; that there is not an overwhelming offer of feel-good online courses, seminars, wellness products, and service providers. You can buy care 24/7. If you cannot, well... work harder.

Reflecting on her personal experience with neoliberal care in a psychiatric hospital in her early twenties, Line Finderup Jensen presents her two most recent audio-visual works at O—Overgaden, the virtual reality experience *Section: 801* (2022) and the video installation *What if I am not an Übermensch?* (2022). Having rebuilt the hospital ward and the doctor's examination

room from her transformed the into immersive room in the exhibition, then, has that strangely calming atmosphere of hospitals about it. Its walls are halfway painted in cream yellow, while plants and pictures add the assuring certitude of life and beauty. Arranged on a blue vinyl floor, a chaise longue offers seating while you put on the VR glasses above your head. Inside the virtual reality, you find yourself becoming the protagonist in an open ward with young fellow patients. The second room constitutes a black box with curved walls installed to face each other and a circular couch at their center. On each wall, five 3D animated individuals in white shirts stare at you. Once they start their conversation, you realize they are doctors, psychologists, and psychiatrists conducting some kind of diagnosis of you.

In *No Exit Prior to Orientation*, Finderup Jensen rigorously exposes her vulnerabilities and, in doing so, banalizes the conventions of neoliberal care. She makes no secret of her failure to fit in, to conform with how heteronormative society expects her to be, to feel, to desire. She forces us into positions in which we cannot help but partake, sharing her experience in a mental health clinic and thus invites us to become participants in a joint *act of caring*. Upon the very moment we enter the first gallery room, Finderup Jensen turns us into patients of the hospital and intensifies that transformation by the help of the VR glasses. These isolate our perception from any distractions and augment our bodily response to her constructed reality. This interest in the shifting of perspectives recurs in several of her previous works. Take, for example, *Old Habits* (2019), a virtual reality work in which she recounts her time as a caretaker in a home for the elderly in Denmark. Juxtaposing it with *Section: 801* (2022), it is astounding how Finderup Jensen switches between the position of the care provider and the care receiver from one work to the other. In doing so, the artist positions care as a naturally reciprocal process and ultimately reveals that "we are all formed, albeit in diverse and uneven ways, through and by our interdependencies".²

In other words, she lays bare our various entanglements as social bodies in an infinite web of care and hence irritates neoliberal interpretations of care as being an individual responsibility rather than a communal one.

One is led to believe that the choice to present ten instead of one representative doctor in *What if I am not an Übermensch?* (2022) was yet another example of Finderup Jensen's tendency to allow for multiple perspectives as an act of caring. Well, not quite. Not only has she recreated all characters based on her subjective memory, but she has also directed each of their movements by means of motion-tracking technology, in the process of which she used her own body. It goes without saying that it is in fact her body, then, that speaks through each of these physicians,

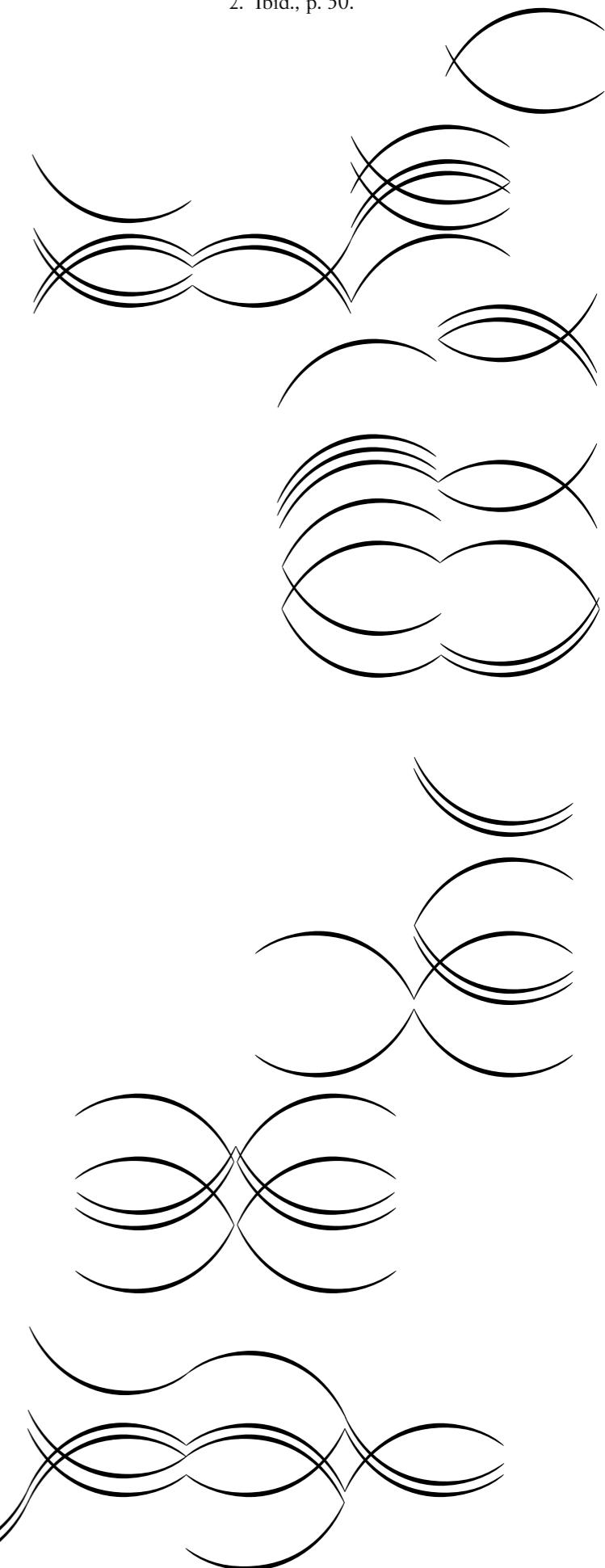
determines each of their facial expressions, gestures, and utterances. This nonchalant yet probably obvious trick introduces another crucial aspect in Finderup Jensen's mode of caring: the rejection of the concept of truth. For *What if I am not an Übermensch?* (2022) she took the liberty of distilling fragments of information from her original medical records and recontextualizing them in order to produce a scripted dialogue between the physicians in the video. This disobedient manipulation of official documents enables the artist to reclaim agency over who she is, to tell her story herself, beyond any normative psychiatric labels and classifications. She thereby ridicules the very distinction between categories like truth and fiction, and prioritizes the equal treatment of diverse perspectives and forms of being.

This also manifests in the way Finderup Jensen queers and glitches formalistic protocols. In most of her CGI rendered videos, she embraces imperfections and awkward distortions, as is also evident in an earlier video of hers, *Kill Joy* (2018). Scrutinizing normative currencies of happiness in the heterosexual family, the video features poorly rendered family members cutting disproportional slices of steaks while their hands swirl through the air. Some figures even seem to accidentally disappear, only to reappear a couple of seconds later in a flickering mode. Similarly, the physicians in the multi-screen video installation at O—Overgaden are closer to some kind of strange would-be cyborgs than real people. This idiosyncratic use of software and technology to implement an element of "strangeness" illustrates the way Finderup Jensen celebrates difference and deviance as important factors for more caring and livable futures: supposed imperfections do not make you less valuable. More so, she reveals art as itself a realm permeated by norms and ideology. She is indifferent to how you would recreate someone's avatar "correctly". This disobedience is a strategy that allows her to craft her own ecology of survival – as an artist just as much as a private person.

With *No Exit Prior to Orientation*, Finderup Jensen has developed her own vocabulary of caring. Shifting perspectives, realizing our interdependencies, and rejecting truths and norms are as much part of her caring language as is embracing difference. She invites us into her story, makes us witness the way she perceives the world. She wants us to watch, listen, and dwell in her memory. And so, she makes us care. Conceiving of our interdependency as an inevitable given, she does not need our consent. On the contrary, she blurs the lines between the dependent and independent, between care given and care received and, instead, highlights care as a more cyclical process of give and take. Line offers us the opportunity to collectively probe care as a self-organized, communal practice, where neoliberalism and white patriarchy fail or, rather, are unwilling to facilitate sustainable networks of mutual support.

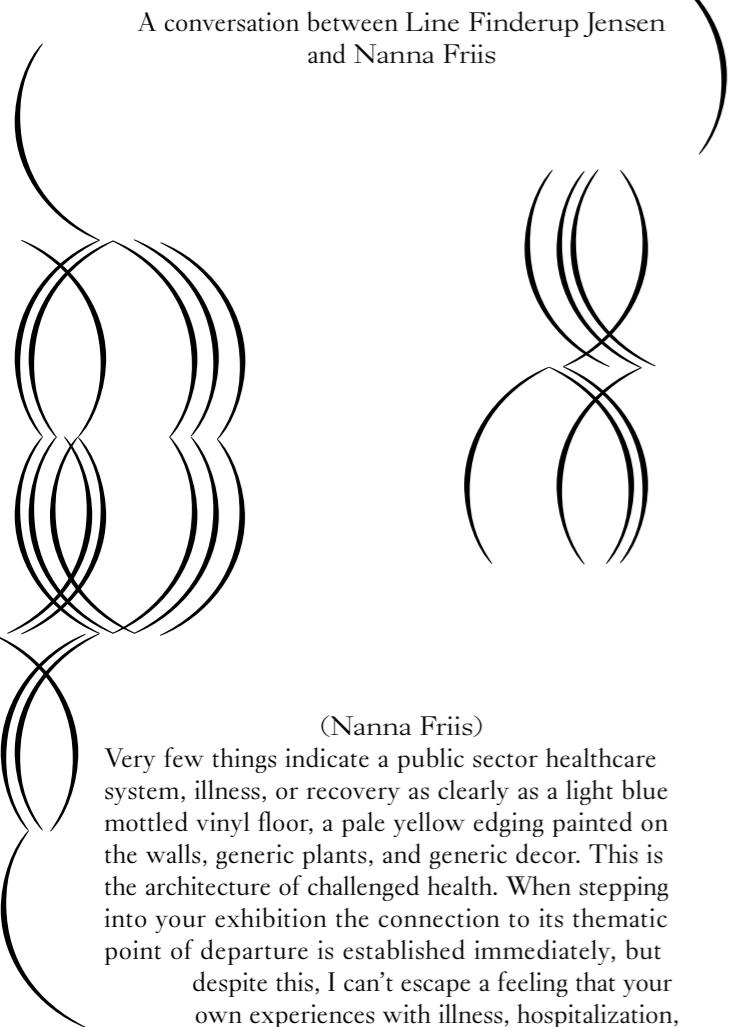
1. The Care Collective, *The Care Manifesto: The Politics of Interdependence* (London: Verso, 2020), p. 4.

2. Ibid., p. 30.



BOUNLESS REALITY

A conversation between Line Finderup Jensen and Nanna Friis



(Nanna Friis)

Very few things indicate a public sector healthcare system, illness, or recovery as clearly as a light blue mottled vinyl floor, a pale yellow edging painted on the walls, generic plants, and generic decor. This is the architecture of challenged health. When stepping into your exhibition the connection to its thematic point of departure is established immediately, but despite this, I can't escape a feeling that your own experiences with illness, hospitalization, diagnoses, and a vulnerable psyche aren't the unequivocal essence of your work. I'm thinking about potential coherence between virtual reality and psychic diseases, between the creation of an alternative reality through a computer program and the presence of an expanded, restricted, different reality in the so-called diseased mind. I don't know much about either VR or psychic diseases so I'll resist trying to explain any of it, but I'm thinking that you have quite a thorough knowledge of both. Does it make sense, in terms of your practice, to precisely imagine virtuality as a place or a tool corresponding with – or maybe even overshadowing – the narrative of disease that inspires the exhibition's works?

(Line Finderup Jensen)

Right. It's no secret that the exhibition for my part, is less about mental and my own (disease) history than it is about narrative standpoints in general. Psychiatry and its spaces are hidden from most of us, unless we've been involved with the system ourselves or are relatives to someone who has. And so most of us probably know about the psychiatric environment from films, articles, or other media, often containing a particular discourse

around which it's tightly held ideas wish to invite may recognize, but as a decoy, in order to (re)consider our own conceptions of it. I'm no expert on mental health myself; rather I'm just a regular person who was hospitalized as the result of a suppressing environment. I see virtuality, and VR technology in particular, as a very strong tool for clarifying how our surroundings are very much rendered from our own individual perspectives. This is also one of the reasons you will find a lot of flaws and traces of me in my works: to emphasize how this is not an absolute presentation of reality. This idea of patenting reality is what initially got me hospitalized and that's why I now wish to open up the issue once and for all.

(NF)

Patenting reality – that sounds beautiful and vicious; a condition for this present time (and probably any other time) which is capable of actually devastating people not living up to its requirements, or for some reason not wanting to adjust to them. For example, I'm thinking about people who are forced into crossing national borders, people without homes and money, oppressed queer people. I guess any kind of animation – perhaps just most art in general – can be seen as an attempt to counteract a fixed reality, to obstruct this kind of streamlined patenting. You mention how surroundings are rendered from our own perspectives and I imagine that this circumstance is difficult to change. It must necessarily be my own gaze, the thinking and personality behind that gaze, all this highly subjective matter, that will always determine how I perceive what I meet – be it a person or a hospital or an artificial animation of both. Do you think VR is capable of changing these circumstances? That animations of an environment which indeed belongs to someone else can actually bring us a little closer to comprehending reality with other eyes than our own? It almost sounds like some kind of utopian empathy – or maybe not utopian, but maximum.

(LFJ)

The patent of reality is devastating and, for a lot of people, also scarily invisible. There definitely exists a worldview and particular groups of people who are making the agendas, deciding what's right and wrong for the rest of us. A wish for a growing, gray mob if you like. We haven't all experienced the same stuff, we aren't all brought up under the same conditions, not even if we share a postal code. And yet this factor is often not taken into account when we have to consider each other together in a shared present. So yes, it's difficult to change this circumstance, but nevertheless, I hope to be able to prod the bullet-proof independence of our normative society a bit. In terms of VR, I don't believe that it ranges above other approaches and media on a ranking of empathy and engagement.

I rather believe that the interactive elements also existing in video games can engage people to look and experience based on their own choices; maybe even create the conditions for a story rooted in their own background, too. Surely there is a creator behind any game, artwork, or film, so the freedom is partially limited, but as technology develops I see huge potential in personalizing the outcome or experience of a work.

(NF)

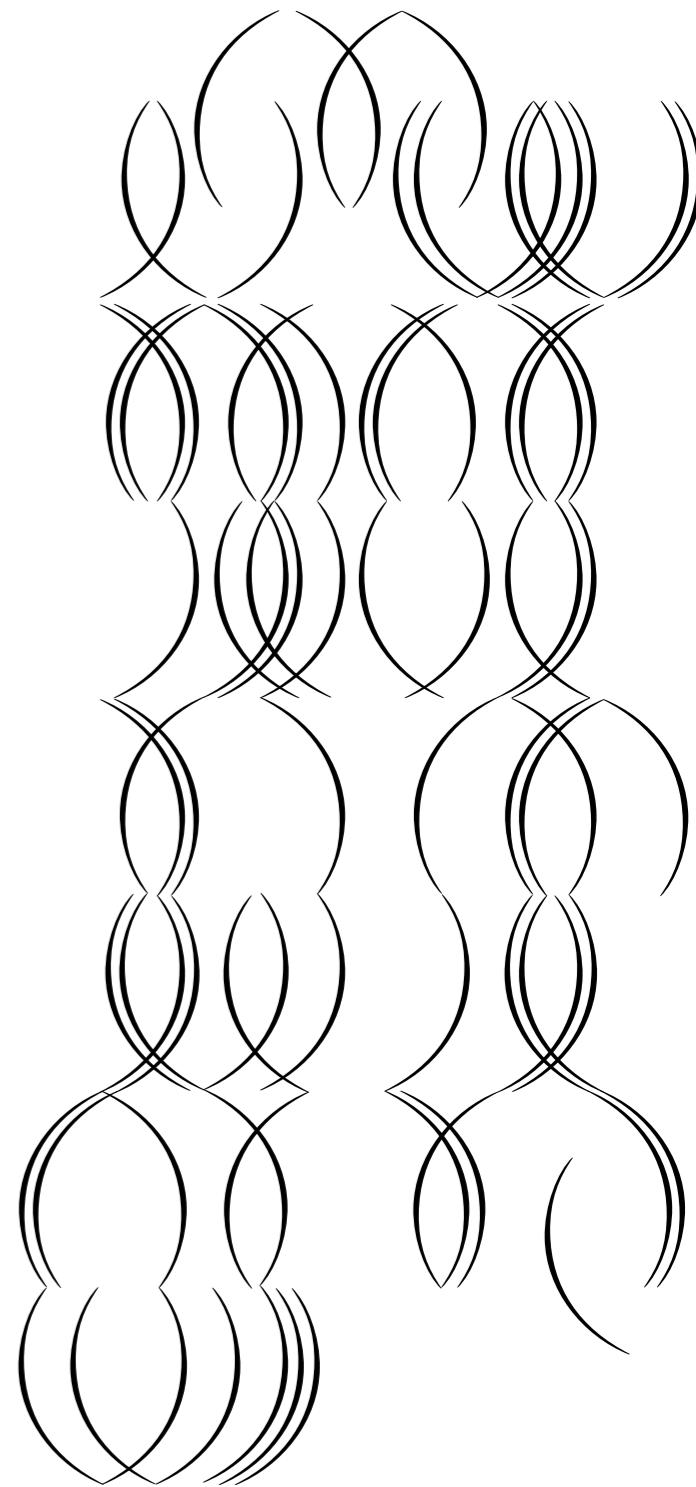
What kind of potential? It makes sense to imagine how an art experience – or presumably any experience – becomes increasingly personal when it takes place in a simulated 3D reality but it's also difficult for me to fully grasp why. I guess the very essence of subjectivity is to move through a life, to experience stuff in ways only you experience them – apropos of what you mentioned about how lives existing very close to each other can also be experienced very differently. How is technology able to potentially increase subjectivity or personalization of the (art) experience – if that is what you mean? And why does this potential feel particularly interesting for you to work with – if it does?

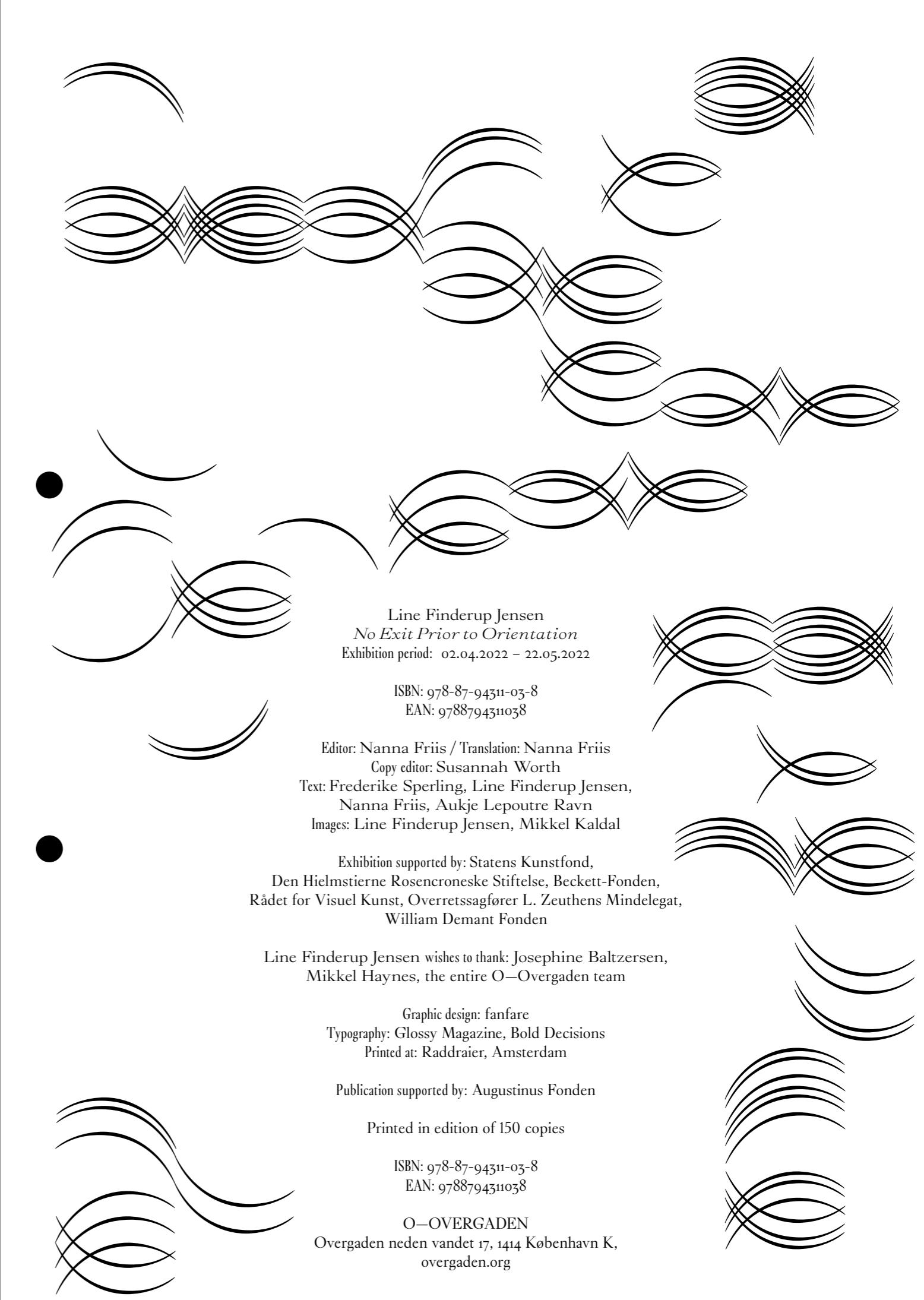
(LFJ)

I believe that the inevitability of the feeling that our lives are solely subjective probably isn't shared by everyone – and isn't respected either. For me, it is actually very much about pointing to this fact in particular. When I speak about the potential of technology and interactivity, I especially think about the feedback from the users; that you can establish a scenario that instantly presents the receiver with the consequences of that person's actions. As technology gradually blurs the limits for what is real and what isn't, our own standpoint is concurrently expanding. VR encloses your surroundings and forces you down into another reality where you are really no longer able to interact with these accustomed surroundings. AI becomes increasingly intelligent, movement mechanisms become better and better at simulating what we do "in reality" and this means that, in a way, we can actually re-emerge in another reality. This is where I find technology particularly interesting, but it's also important to investigate what we do when granted the possibility of acting in the world on a different basis than what we're used to.

Maybe the best thing, the most meaningful or open thing, is to actually just indulge in the idea that an unambiguous definition of the term "reality" just doesn't make sense when it comes to VR technology and VR art. And maybe doesn't make sense altogether. If it was possible to abandon the urge to determine what truth and reality are (and the belief that one equals the other and that each is definable) it could be possible to extend the category of "normal" when it comes to human beings and their minds.

Naturally, psychic vulnerability is more and other than varying perceptions of reality but it seems interesting and pleasing to pursue the idea that investigation and use of virtual reality can contribute to paving the way for this blurring of reality boundaries you mentioned. And that this movement – or broadness is you like – can then further contribute to established systems and hierarchies of the so-called normal being re-thought and enlarged. This is surely a romantic conception – and may be just naïve or impossible – but technology and interactivity, combined with the expansion of senses that art experiences are at their best, being able to expand our own standpoint – that is uplifting to imagine. Something only existing on a screen in front of your eyes perhaps can add to an enlargement of reality for others.

















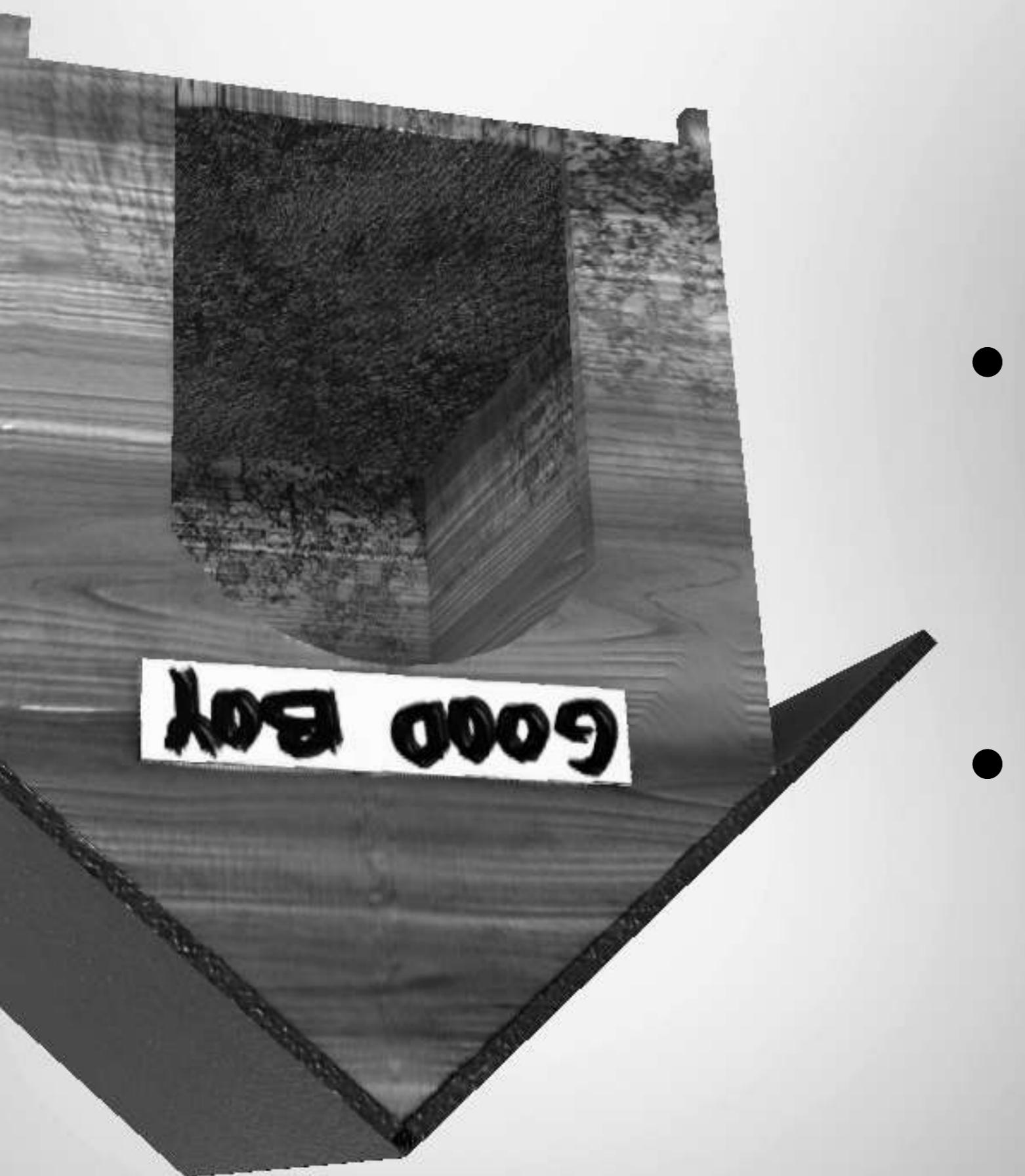






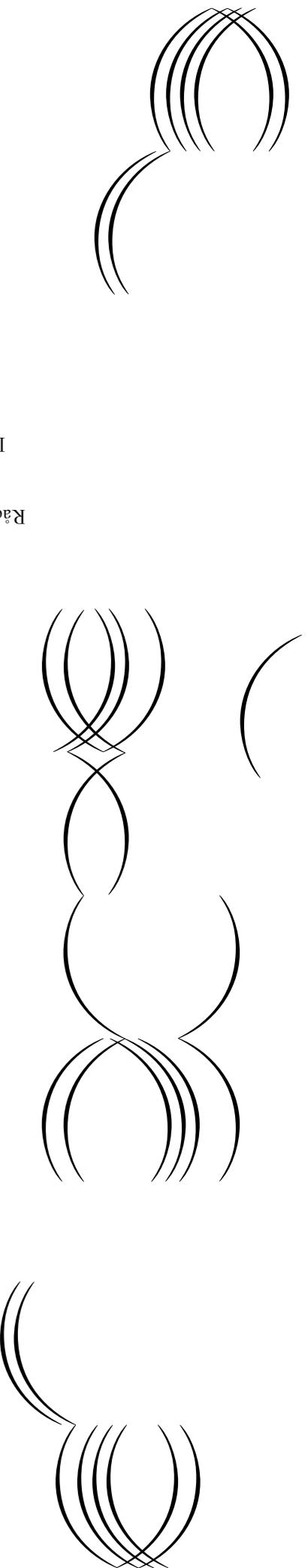
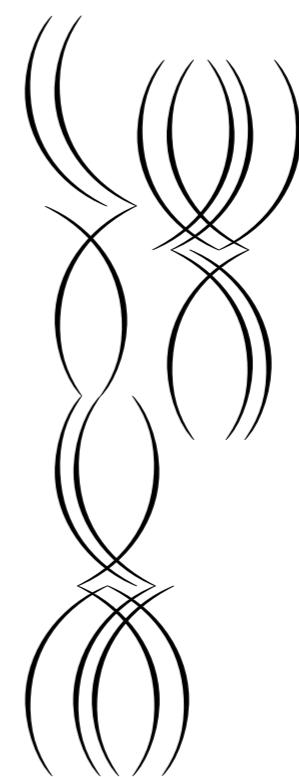






Liane Findeirup-Jensen vil sælge række: Josephine Blætzerseen,
Mikkel Haynes, helse teamet på O - Overgaden
Rådet for Visual Kunst, Overretssagsfører L. Zuchens Mindelægt.
Den Hilmisterne Rosencroneiske Stiftelse, Beckert-Fonden,
Udstillingen er støttet af: Statens Kunstmuseum,
William Demant Fonden
Rådet for Visual Kunst, Overretssagsfører L. Zuchens Mindelægt.
Typpgrah: Glossy Magazine, Bold Decisions
Graphic design: fanfare
Publikationen er støttet af: Augustinus Fonden
ISBN: 978-87-94311-03-8
EAN: 978794311038
Trykt i 150 eksemplarer

Mikkel Haynes, helse teamet på O - Overgaden
Rådet for Visual Kunst, Overretssagsfører L. Zuchens Mindelægt.
Den Hilmisterne Rosencroneiske Stiftelse, Beckert-Fonden,
Udstillingen er støttet af: Statens Kunstmuseum,
William Demant Fonden
Rådet for Visual Kunst, Overretssagsfører L. Zuchens Mindelægt.
Typpgrah: Glossy Magazine, Bold Decisions
Graphic design: fanfare
Publikationen er støttet af: Augustinus Fonden
ISBN: 978-87-94311-03-8
EAN: 978794311038
Trykt i 150 eksemplarer



GRÄNSEH VIRKELEI

Få ting signulerer offentlig sektor, undhedsavve
sygdom eller helbredelse, som et yselbågarme
vinygløjl, en bleggul bort mælt på væggene
genetiske planter, genetisk dekoration i rumm
Det er helbredeudordningerne arkitektur. Når
tematiske udgångspræsentatører med der sa
løkke er sygdomsforårsagten, hospitaler, diaquo
arbejde. Jeg tenkede over mulige sammenhænge
til hværen VR eller psykisk sygdom, så jeg v
vitklinikkerne i det skalde sygt sind, jeg kendte ikke
tilstedsvarerelsen af en udvidet, indskrænket, aut
af en alternativ vitklinikkered i et computerprog
virtual reality og psykisk sygdom, mellem ska
vitklinikker og psykisk sygdom, så jeg v
gører mig klog på nogcen af delene, men
teanekter, at du har et ganske indg
andret. Giver det mening i forhold til
praksis at forsætte sig netop virtueltjen som e
eller et redskab, der ligge i forængetse af - celle
endda overskygger - den sygdomshistorie, der
udgångspræsentatører udgående værkcr?

Patient på virklighedens, det lyder blot og ondt: et vilkårt for den her nytid (og formuntlig alle andre tider), som simpelthen er i stand ødelegge mennesker, der ikke lever op til dens krav, eller på en eller anden måde ikke ønsker at tilpasse sig den. Her trenger jeg fx på AL form for animation, måske egentlig rigtig meget nævneværdigt, at modarbejde en fastlæst virklighed, der funst i det hele tageset, kan vel ses som et forsøg på at formidle sådan en strømlinet patientering.

Det må at denne omstændighed er svær at ændre. Det må dog personalig, der ligge bag netop mit blik, alt hvoridan jeg opfatter det jeg møder - om det så er et menneske eller et hospital eller en kunstig brinngæs os bare en lille smule nærmere på at begrib et miljø, der virkelig er en andens, rent faktsk kar andre på denne omstændighed? At animatiorer al virkelighedspræcnen er altdelelæggenes, og for mange også udnyttig. Der findes helt afsljor et verdenssyn og et sagsmætt af mennesker, som setter dagssordenen for, hvad der rigtigt også forker for resten af os. Et ønske om en grå, de samme ting, vi er ikke voksne op under postummeget er det samme. Alligevel bliver denne faktor ofte ikke taget med i overvejelsmæne,

når vi skal tænke himanden

A vertical decorative border composed of a repeating geometric pattern of overlapping curved lines forming stylized, symmetrical shapes resembling stylized 'S' or 'M' characters. The pattern is rendered in black ink on a white background.

Georgia of Georgia Linen

Med sin kombination af legende, interaktive spillementer og absurdte institutioner skaber Findeturup enkenscen ikke bare en vigtig institution, hun giver os også en ny, monografisk publikationer, der udskifter sekretig med en købende i realiteten til husets soloudstilling. I sin sekretig nye, monografiske publikationer, der udskifter sekretig med en købende i realitet fra O - Overgaden arbejdet med en publikationssekken er muliggørt gennem generøs støtte fra Augustinus Fonden, som skal have en højerebillede tak. Publikationssekken er muliggørt gennem Komune skal også have visuel kunst i København. Kunst i København skal også have en højerebillede omstørgerbarbæde. En stor tak også til enkenscen arbejde, secenter et kritisk spørg op foran vor tids uacabillerbare omstørgerbarbæde. En stor har samletet med Line om systemets ødeleggelse.

Cesar Rogers og Miguel Herrads Gómez. Som altid også sammen med Line har kuratoret, bygget op formidleren højrevarm tak til O - Overgadenes øvrige team, der også har arbejdet med vores grafiske designere fra fanfare; Samarbejde med vores grafiske designere fra fanfare;

Virkelighedsparter, vi ikke har arbejdet med vores grafiske designere fra fanfare;

om unges mørkale undhede i dag.

Ingen udgang for gennemgang
Udstillingsperiode: 02.04.2022 – 22.05.2022

© OVERGADEN
Overgaden neden vandet 17, 1414 København
overgaden.org

