

RANDOM REASON

This is a presentation of visual artist Rita Marhaug's latest work. Emphasis is on the exhibition project **Random Reason**.

Random Reason is a series of images, mounted individually or linked together in groups. The exhibition concept was first presented at Galleri Allmenningen, Bergen Norway May-12 as a solo show. All framing are given museum glass to better bring forth the pictures' surfaces. Several prints have a contrast between mat ink and glossy lacquer. Technically the prints are executed as photo gravure, 3 color separation.



Above detail and left whole image 112x75cm
From the series Horizon, mono print and lacquer on paper, Rita Marhaug 2012
Photo Bjarte Bjørkum

Inner and outer horizons characterize our thoughts and actions. As a tool for image making the *horizon line* has been invaluable since its introduction together with the central perspective. The image was by geometrical systems placed within transparent realm of rationality.

Describing our surroundings, the *horizon* denotes the meeting between sky and sea. But we also realize that this is only reality from our own point of view, an illusion from a distance. The horizon is not an actual place.

The image series is manufactured in three different formats some of which are connected together in pairs or slightly larger groups:

45 x 45cm

56 x 75cm

75 x 112cm

Two panels 112x75cm, from the series Horizon, Rita Marhaug 2012
Photo Bjarte Bjørkum





The lacquer topping in bright shiny colors have come as a result of the desire to join very slow processes with spontaneous, fast ones, but also to bring closer different practices in Marhaug's oeuvre: image and performance.

In recent years, she has worked on a series of performance works under the headline *Norwegian Liquid*. Different colored fluids have been used to "run in and out" of her body during her shows. We will not enter details of her performances but the enclosed photos show two examples from later years.



*From Warszawa May, 19th, 2012
From Gimsøya, Lofoten August, 6th, 2011
Photo Emilie Marhaug*



For sure the knowledge of materials, such as colors and inks for printing and painting on paper, has a part in her solutions and esthetics.

The process behind each panel or image group is both tedious and slow. Own photos are basis for the production of color separated printing plates. These concrete motives are used together with abstract elements in the manor of mono print technique.

*Two panels 112x75cm and 56x75cm
From the series Horizon, Rita Marhaug 2012
Photo Bjate Bjørkum*

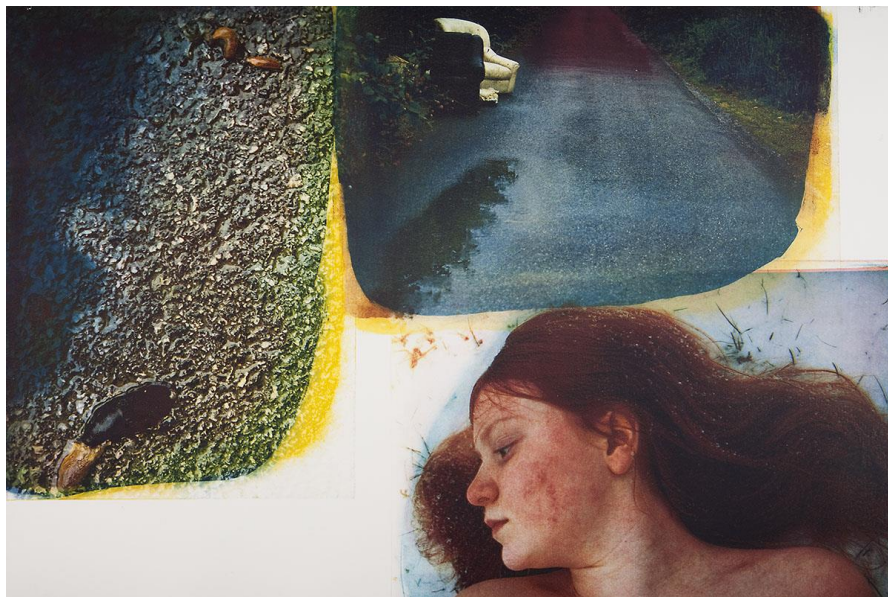
The photographic image creates intimacy to the viewer through the illusion of reality. However, it is not the ability to imitate photographic language that is the target for the picture series. Choice of materiality is just as important: the little errors and offsets, random spots in the paper surface. The many traces from several matrixes, in a long elaborate chain of actions, constitute the finished image.



From the exhibition Random Reasn , Galleri Allmenningen, Bergen, Rita Marhaug 2012

Random horizon lines and random obstacles in the horizon line are basic structures in the pictures, both formally and content wise.

From the series Horizon, 112x75cm, mono print, Rita Marhaug 2012
Photo Bjarte Bjørkum



The series of Horizon and the exhibition Random Reason has been produced during the last three year at Bergen Academy of Art and Design (KHIB). This summer Marhaug has finished her six years contract at KHIB where she held the position as professor at Department of Fine Art.

From the series Horizon, 112x75cm, mono print, Rita Marhaug 2012
Photo Bjarte Bjørkum

SHORT ABOUT THE ARTIST

Rita Marhaug was born in Bergen in 1965. She is educated from Bergen Academy of Art and Design (KHIB), MA -89; Art History from University of Bergen BA-96. Since the early 1990's Marhaug has participated in a great numbers of solo and group exhibitions and performance festivals both in Norway and internationally.

Important means and tools of expressions beside mentioned production are drawing, installation, video and artist books.

Part of the Horizon series was also exhibited in group exhibition Training Nature at Print Room, London, July-12. During autumn -12 she made Dialogues with Reality, two collaborative exhibitions with colleagues Robert Alda Gillian Carson and Karen Kipphoff in Edinburgh and Warsaw. In both places her contribution was wallpaper installations.



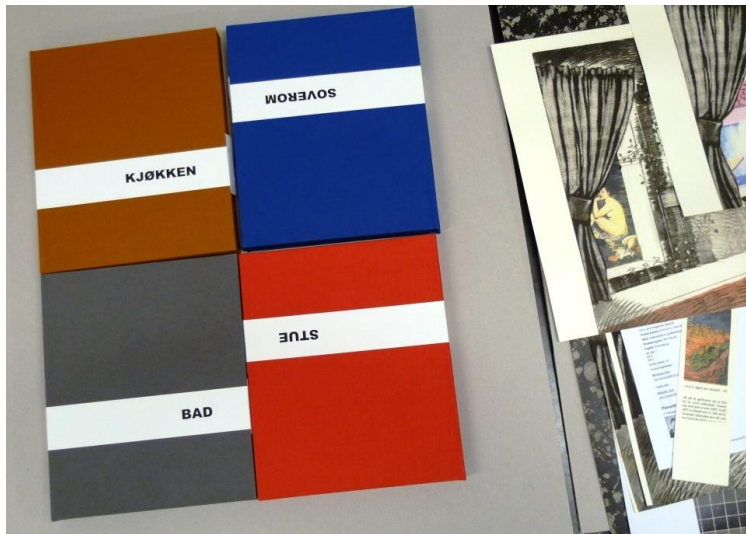
Right above, from the exhibition Random Reason Galleri Allmenningen, Rita Marhaug 2012



Left, from the exhibition Dialogues with Reality, wallpaper installation 655cm x 470cm, Rita Marhaug 2012

She has also attended performance festivals and events in Spain, China, Poland, England and Norway the last year. Her collaboration with British college Traci Kelly has resulted in a series of performances and two exhibitions. One was showed in Bonnington Gallery Nottingham, the other in Rom 8, Bergen, both spring-13. Kelly and Marhaug are presented with collaborative video works at British Ceramic Biennial (BCB), Stoke on Trent, September-13.

Right now she is also part of the Nordic exhibition **hem : HJEM : koti : heim : heima : angerlarsimaffik (home)** in Silkeborg Art Centre, Denmark. Here she shows four book objects.



Above, book objects at Silkeborg Art Centre, Rita Marhaug 2013



*Right, from the performance **First Form**, Stoke on Trent September-12, photo Bjarte Bjørkum*

FUTURE PLANS

During the autumn of -13 Marhaug has several performance productions coming up; one is *Crepescular* in the old prison of Bergen, September-13, in collaboration with college Benedicte Clementsen. In November -13 she is invited to do a project at Trykkeriet, Centre of Contemporary Printmaking, Bergen. In spring -14 she is awarded a two-month residency supported by Bergen Council at PointB, Williamsburgh, Brooklyn, New York. She will also be a guesting artist at Performance Area School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, USA February -14.

Rita Marhaug is the co-founder of membership organization Performance Art Bergen (PAB). From 2001 till -13 she was professor at Bergen Academy of Art and Design, Fine Art Dept. She has her studio at Kunstnerverksteder cs55, Bergen.

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*From the performance **Crepescular** with Benedicte Clementsen, 2013
Photo Bjarte Bjørkum.*

