

Aarhus School of Architecture // Design School Kolding // Royal Danish Academy

BORDERS

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BORDERS

Exhibition at The Notice board

79 Main road Uffington Stamford, Lincolnshire, UK

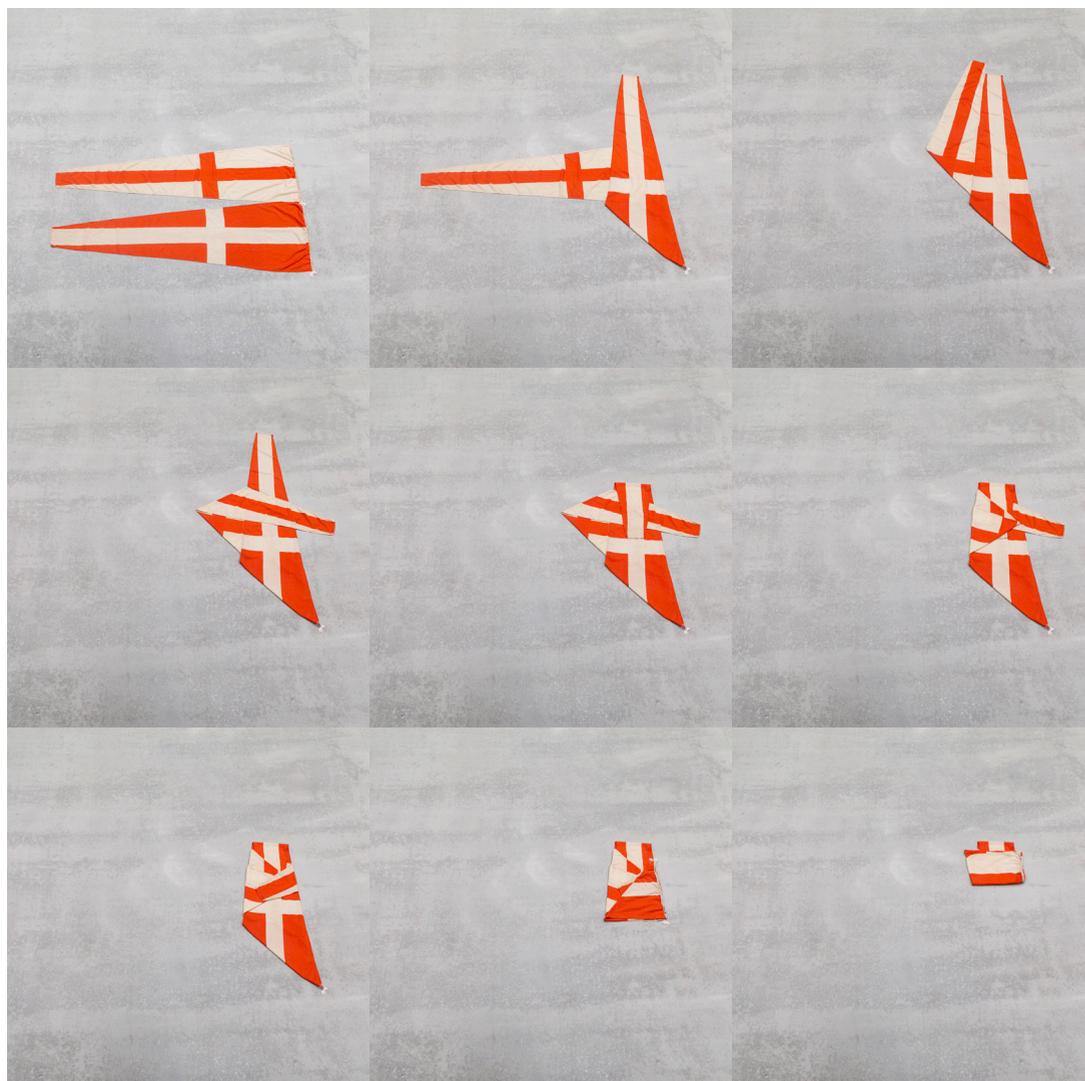
We had a great collection of flags in our house. Living with these flags has made us aware of the strong sense of nationality that these flags represent. No matter what we do with the flags they are heavily loaded with connotations of nationality and territory.

Among the collection we have made a selection of just two flags. The Danish flag Dannebrog that dates back to 1219 and the English flag Saint George's Cross dating back to the 1270s. Originating from almost the same time in the history, the Middle Ages and the time of the crusades, having the same colours, red and white and even sharing the Christian Cross they are very alike and yet so different. Distinguished by history, tradition, land, language, nationality they evoke different feelings, memory and a strong sense of cultural identity.

However, set in a contemporary context the two flags immediately instigate a sense of antagonism and the existence of borders. Would it be possible to erase the borders and leave a sense of unification by the simple act of folding the two flags together and let their colours and pattern intertwine or would it be an act of confrontation or even provocation? What is the symbolic power of flags? Can this be measured by the act of folding?



exhibition at The Notice board



Anders Gammelgaard Nielsen and Iben West.
Based in Norddjurs, Denmark

Title: BORDERS

This month's exhibition showcases collaborative work by Danish artists Anders Gammelgaard Nielsen and Iben West.

The Notice Board is interested in how many artists have steered away from using national flags, creating their own designs and disrupting notions of nationality that way. Anders and Iben have tackled the subject head on, leading to multiple interpretations that asking if its ever possible to escape the claiming power of a flag given its a mundane piece of fabric or decorative artefact. Or rather, given the Notice Board's Land of the Free? theme is the flag now more problematic and loaded?

Anders Gammelgaard Nielsen is a Danish sculptor and architect born in Aarhus in 1963. He is educated from the Aarhus school of Architecture and Edinburgh College of Art. He has been teaching and researching for more than 25 years at the Aarhus school of Architecture and holds a position as an Associate Professor. In his research as in his practice as an artist his focus is materials and their tectonic potentials as well as their ability to evoke ambiances.

www.aarch.dk/en/anders-gammelgaard-nielsen/

Iben West – (b. 1967) is a visual artist and graphic designer, graduating from The Design School Kolding. She has participated in a large number of exhibitions both in Denmark and abroad, often work in collaborations with other artists or disciplines. Iben's work is based on materials and she seeks to unfold their potentials by applying different technics and crafts. Working in different medias and scales Iben's work ranges from artist books, journal editorials, site-specific exhibitions/installations and decorations.

Her starting point is often rooted in the ordinary, mundane and overseen. This is examined and given value by focusing on its potential as structure, color and shape.

Instagram @iben_west

The Notice Board is a contemporary visual art project showcasing the work of international artists in two public venues in Uffington, Lincolnshire.

The Notice Board features month-long exhibitions on the theme The Lands of the Free? with an ambition to connect audiences to the work of artists whilst offering unusual sites for artists to showcase work.

The two sites are an A1 sized Notice Board and 5m high Flag Pole hosted in my front garden. Both sites hold prominent positions in the centre of Uffington village on the A1175. Both sites are visible to drivers, residents, pub visitors and rambblers walking the Torpel Way. Uffington also hosts many community wide events that attract wide ranging visitors – this includes the annual Scarecrow Festival which brings 2000 + people to the village.

Further information about the village https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uffington,_Lincolnshire

Rationale:

The Notice Board takes 2 provocations as it starting point. In 1978 Václav Havel stated that the oppressed always contain 'within themselves the power to remedy their own powerlessness'. He was referring to individuals living under communism. He went on to coach them to go about their daily activities as if communism did not exist. Then in another context anthropologist Tim Ingold proposed 'Improvisation, celebrates the freedom of human imagination to transcend the determinations of both nature and society'.

The Notice Board is action orientated in the face of the enormous challenges of our time be that ecological, the dominance of a commercial economy, racism, impact of colonialism, growing authoritarianism, side-lined progressive policies etc etc etc

The Notice Board is a small act of struggle and uses the only thing I have: Art and Ideas. It seeks to reclaim a space and be an act of resistance.

The Notice Board and its theme The Lands of the Free? are internationalist and collective. It aims to create a community of people around a shared goal and offer a purpose. An approach that is based on solidarity and the re-purposing of joy. Pleasures that are not superfluous items of wealth but antidotes. Antidotes that contain within them questions of freedom, play, expertise, awareness, beauty, acceptance, courage and their contradictions. It is the consideration of these potentially philosophical, and deeply political, issues that the project engages with.

Photos of the exhibition will be shared with each artist and at www.katenever.com in the blog section and on Instagram @notice-boardinternational

Address of Notice Board: 79 Main road Uffington Stamford Lincs pe94sn, UK