



Love Story – Works from Erling Kagge's Collection
22.05. – 27.09.2015

Press preview
21.05.15 11am

Astrup Fearnley Museet has the pleasure to invite you to the presentation of the exhibition *Love Story - Works from Erling Kagge's Collection*. Director Gunnar B. Kvaran will introduce the exhibition, followed by a tour among the artworks alongside Erling Kagge and curator Therese Möllenhoff, and end at Cafe Renzo for a pleasant lunch.

Erling Kagge is primarily known as one of the greatest adventurers of our time, but is also a dedicated art collector. The exhibition *Love Story* features a selection of works from 18 artists from his collection.

It was in the early 1980s that Kagge acquired his first artwork, marking the beginning of what later grew into a spectacular collection. The collection is remarkably well-composed, each work having been chosen with unusual insight and personal judgement. The post-conceptual works have attracted particular attention in recent years from both experts and art lovers. Most of these are of the highest quality, bearing witness to Kagge's original perspective on international contemporary art. In conjunction with the exhibition, Kagge has written a book, *A Poor Collector's Guide to Buying Great Art*, published by Kagge Forlag, where he shares his experience as an art collector, giving insider tips and tells vivid and humorous about his art acquisitions.

Kagge is a polar explorer, mountaineer, lawyer and publisher. He was the first to reach the South Pole, walking alone and unsupported for 50 days — an exploit featured on the cover of Time magazine, and to surmount the "three poles" — North, South and the summit of Mt Everest. For the past 25 years, he has been setting new standards in exploration.

Kagge had already sailed across the Atlantic twice, around Cape Horn and to Antarctica and back by the time he received a law degree from the University of Oslo in 1989. In 1996, after a year's sabbatical reading philosophy at Cambridge University, he founded what is today one of Norway's leading book publishers. Kagge's latest expedition was to cross New York City through its sewage, water, train and subway tunnels.

"It is important, in our privileged civilization to make life a bit more difficult than necessary. If not, I would not walk alone to The South Pole, nor collect Trisha Donnelly."

- Erling Kagge

Artists: Assume Vivid Astro Focus, Dan Attoe, Tauba Auerbach, Trisha Donnelly, Olafur Eliasson, Jana Euler, Ceal Floyer, Mark Handforth, Ann Cathrin November Høibo, Sergej Jensen, Adriana Lara, Klara Lidén, Raymond Pettibon, Manfred Pernice, Kirsten Pieroth, Andreas Slominski, Wolfgang Tillmans, Franz West

Curators: Gunnar B. Kvaran and Therese Möllenhoff, together with Erling Kagge

Sayings about Erling Kagge and his collection:

"He's a philosophical adventurer or perhaps an adventurous philosopher."

- New York Times

"One has to be exceptionally adventurous, distinct, determined and dedicated to do the expeditions Erling Kagge told me about - looking at the collection of art he brought together, one can see the exact qualities of commitment to artists and their works looking at the uncertainties and challenges of our contemporary live."

- Beatrix Ruf, director, Stedelijk Museum

"A professional adventurer. What can be more interesting than planning and living out of the ordinary experiences!"

- Heitor Martines, President of the Fundação Bienal de São Paulo

"Erling Kagge is a pioneering collector who very often collects artists at the beginning of their trajectory and continues to accompany their path."

- Hans Ulrich Obrist

"Erling Kagge sends you on a personal journey to the art pole."

- Marina Abramovic

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