



Henrik Olesen
Studio Voltaire presents: Mr Knife and Mrs Fork

Friday 9 October – 7 November 2009

Studio Voltaire is pleased to announce a new commission by the Danish artist Henrik Olesen. The exhibition will be the artist's first solo exhibition in the United Kingdom.

Henrik Olesen (born 1967) poses questions on the politics of sexuality through architectural interventions, sculptures and collages. Particularly important is his interest in social minorities, and related problems such as ostracism, stigmatisation and criminalisation. The formal theoretical points of departure in his work range from art historical references to the reduced formal vocabulary and reflections of minimal and conceptual art.

A recent body of work has refers to the British mathematic and scientist Alan Turing (1912 – 1954) who is often considered the father of modern computer science. A somewhat tragic figure, Turing was criminally prosecuted for committing homosexual acts and, given the choice of imprisonment or 'corrective treatment', was given a course of oestrogen hormone injections, which acted as a chemical castration. This essentially ended his career and led to his suicide. Developing out of Olesen's interest in sexuality and criminality, the work also extends his interest into identity and *body politics*.

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About the artist:

The project follows the artists solo exhibitions at Migros Museum (2007), Galerie Daniel Buchholz, Berlin/Cologne (2008, 2007 and 2005) and Wiener Secession, Vienna (2004). Olesen has also curated *Oh Girl, It's a Boy!* at Kunstverein Munchen, Munich and has been included in numerous group exhibitions including MACBA, Barcelona (2009), *Dispersion*, ICA, London (2008) and New Museum, New York (2007).