

E.B. ITSO

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E.B. ITSO // PORTABLE DARKNESS JUNE 30 - AUGUST 26 2018

The art of the impossible: Underground artist E.B. Itso frames upcoming solo exhibition with the intimate connection between architecture and body, which underlines sub cultures, inmates' escape attempts, and spectacular robberies.

There is still other hidden things, lurking in the inner pockets of the city. Spaces for plans and refuge. Long live curiosity.
E.B. Itso and Adams

E.B. Itso (1977) graduated from the Malmö Academy of Fine Arts in 2014 and is often highlighted as one of Denmark's most talented and ambitious younger artists. He has already exhibited at Aros Art Museum in 2015, received the much coveted Young Talent Grant, and gained international publicity when his series of graphic prints made with the clothes of refugee survivors was exhibited at Art Basel.

The renowned artist prefers to stay anonymous and keeps away from publicity. However, he gained national fame in 2007 when DR's program 'The 11th Hour' told the story of how workers, renovating parts of the Central Station in Copenhagen, found a hidden apartment below street level just above track 12. What they discovered was a complete home with a cooker, fridge, chairs, table, pictures and hammocks made out of old mailbags – all brought and installed there by E.B. Itso and the Swedish street artist Adams, who had both lived there secretly for four years.

The interest in human presence in urban spaces and hidden places is an ongoing theme in E.B. Itso's works, often seeking to push boundaries in relation to public spaces. He is constantly finding hidden inner pockets in urban space, allowing us to see secluded parts of the city. He nurses all things odd, different and hidden, and provides a voice to disregarded individuals, living on the edge of society. In doing this, he takes a critical stand on the more or less visible power relations dictating our use of the common urban space.

My work is a comment to a hidden and forgotten world. I have no interest in acting as a guide or to persuade anybody to think differently, as I try to do. But I do need to express my opinion through art or statements in public space, E.B. Itso explains.

For his upcoming solo exhibition Portable Darkness in Kunsthall NORD, E.B. Itso is inspired by the fatal and inseparable connection between architecture and the human body, which characterizes amongst others sub cultures, clever attempts of escape performed by inmates, and spectacular robberies.

In order to move around narrow spaces, and to perform moves required to get in, up, to or down, it is important to know one's body. I am fascinated by people showing courage and a strong faith in things working out. I understand them, as I myself have been stumbling around in various places and been in those situations, he says. Several of the works will be produced in Kunsthall NORD and will appear as undefinable narratives between reality and fiction. One of the works shows a wall with a big hole in it, a subtle reference to the big jewel heist in London in 2015. Another work is inspired by Carl August Lorenzens spectacular prison escape on Christmas Eve in 1949, and a third work is a sound installation, giving the audience an idea of what it might feel like to roam around other people's houses at night.

E.B. Itso is primarily concerned with creating aesthetic and narrative works, but one does find a social and political critique in his activist practice, questioning what constitutes a good life and sustainable society, says Henrik Broch-Lips, director of Kunsthall NORD

The exhibition is supported by: **Statens Kunstfond, Knud Højgaards Fond, Grosserer L.F. Foghts Fond and Beckett-Fonden**

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