



Peder Skrams Gade 13
DK-1054 Copenhagen K
www.specta.dk
+45 3313 0123
specta@specta.dk

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JOHAN FURÅKER

Between Dream and Reflection

February 22 - March 21, 2020

In SPECTA's Viewing room, seven paintings by Swedish artist Johan Furåker are presented. In these paintings, which are part of a larger series of works entitled *Paradisus Terrestris - Paradise on Earth* - Furåker depicts amazing green spaces, which point to a long historical tradition of creating these beautiful gardens.



The tradition of establishing fine gardens has existed in most parts of the world, and through writings, depictions and excavations we know about many the elaborate modelling of landscape and nature throughout different historical periods. In this way they testify to how mankind has always had a great need to organize and experience nature as a haven of calm, peace and enjoyment.

Johan Furåker does not go out into the world and paint the gardens and plants he sees in the field. By contrast, he paints his motifs in his studio, and he finds the motifs in the media that are common to our time: in books, articles and in the constant stream of images on the web. It just emphasizes the nature of Johan Furåker's interest in these lush, perfect and grand gardens: that they are a longing for the beautiful, for the extravagant and for a place to seek refuge. The pictures thus represent an escapism, a search for a utopia - for paradise on earth.

Johan Furåker (SE, 1978) was educated from Malmø Art Academy, and lives and works in Denmark. He has done numerous exhibitions, recently a solo exhibition at Kristiansand Kunsthall in Norway, and Johan Furåker is represented in many public collectiions, a.o. Malmø Konstmuseum, Uppsala Konstmuseum, Sørlandets Kunstmuseum (NO), CAPC (FR), NoCo Collection (SE), Statens Konstråd in Sweden.