

GALERIE MARIA WETTERGREN

PARIS

Hanne Friis - *Torrent*

1st April — 17th June, 2023

Opening: Friday, 31st March 2023, 6 PM - 9 PM

In the autumn of 2021, during the Covid 19 pandemic, Hanne Friis is at the Cité des Arts in Paris for four months. Her small flat near the Seine is overflowing with materials bought at the Sacre Coeur. She is preparing her solo exhibition at the Vigeland Museum, which will take place in 2022/23. Outside, the pandemic is in full swing. The homeless and their temporary beds are more visible and the artist notices the contrast between the nonchalant elegance of the city and its dilapidated streets. With the work *Helvete* ('Hell') by the artist Gustav Vigeland in mind, she visits the Rodin Museum and contemplates *The Gates of Hell*. In a creative outburst, Friis creates about fifteen works over a period of twelve months for her exhibition at the Vigeland Museum, acclaimed by the critics. From 1 April to 17 June, Galerie Maria Wettergren will present a selection of important works from the Vigeland Museum together with other major pieces in the exhibition *Torrent*. The title of the exhibition refers to the movements, fluids, forces and transformations that are at the very core of Friis's work.



Hanne Friis, *The Sky is the Limit*, 2022, plastic; hand-stitched, 270 x 100 x 50 cm, unique piece. © Øystein Thorvaldsen

Hanne Friis (b. 1972) is known for her

important textile sculptures, which are created using a handmade folding and sewing technique. Dense layers of folded fabric transform the material into a compressed mass that unfolds sculpturally in space. These abstract forms draw on an imaginary world ranging from the body to nature. *"I have been working with the same themes since I was an art student, it's all about how we as humans are connected to nature, and, as nature, we are constantly changing, which eventually leads us to death. It's a kind of processing of this insight, that life and death are connected."*

Hanging from the ceiling, such as *The Sky Is The Limit* or *Dance*, or on stands, such as *La Vague* or *Flood*, Friis's dense works unfold in the air or on the floor as presences, as bodies. In the words of the artist: *"In many ways, the sculptures are bodies: dishevelled figures, compact creations or bundles thrown onto a steel frame, their forms never fully resolved, a fold that is about to break, a swollen bump. The materials circulate, as do the idioms - folds, waves, craters, spirals, circles. An eternal dance."*

Friis's sculptures are made in dense layers, meticulously stitched by the artist's hand, compressing the fabric into a sculptural mass. The time-consuming aspect of this technique is essential; *"Time is an important aspect of my work. I think I need this concentrated, slow and time-consuming, but still energetic and physical work to think and, at the same time, not to think."* In places, the material springs from the body of the work, like little eruptions, organic growths. The abstract forms that emerge from Friis's work refer as much to the cycles of nature as to the various forms and movements of the body. The forms seem to be inhabited by a growing presence, sometimes weighed down by folds of skin. Friis does not



Hanne Friis, *La Vague*, 2020-22, Imitation leather, steel; hand-stitched, 98 x 78 x 75 cm, unique piece. © Øystein Thorvaldsen



Hanne Friis, *Flood*, 2020-22, Imitation leather, steel; hand-stitched, 72 x 80 x 110 cm, unique piece. © Øystein Thorvaldsen

seem to touch upon its primitive forms in an expressive interpretation that is both wild and controlled.

The mixture of organic forms and synthetic materials, such as imitation leather or plastic, in some of Friis's works may seem like a paradox. As the art critic Jorunn Veiteberg has observed: *"This embrace of both the natural and the artificial is one of several paradoxes in Friis' art. That her sculptures are both abstract and physical, beautiful and disquieting, are two others... Throughout history, different materials have been given different values. These are not simply inherent qualities, but also values created by the social and historical circumstances in which they existed, and the uses to which they have been put, particularly with regards*

to gender. By repeating the same motif in materials so different as velvet, plastic and concrete, Friis reveals some of these differing values."

A selection of oil pastel drawings on paper, made during the artist's residency at the Cité des Arts, as well as the concrete sculpture, *Imprint III*, with the negative form of a textile, molded in the concrete, round off the exhibition and reveal a broader spectrum of Friis' inhabited universe.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Before specializing in textile art, Hanne Friis studied sculpture and painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Trondheim between 1992 and 1996. Today, Hanne Friis is considered one of the most influential Norwegian contemporary artists working with textile. Friis has exhibited worldwide, including a major solo exhibition at the Vigeland Museum, Oslo, Norway in October 2022 - 2023. Her works are included in several important public and private collections, such as the National Museum of Art, Oslo, Norway; National Museum of Decorative Arts, Trondheim, Norway; Haugar Kunstmuseum, Tønsberg, Norway; West Norway Museum of Decorative Arts, Bergen, Norway and the Norwegian Parliament, Oslo, Norway.



For additional information or press inquiries, contact :

Vanessa Paparella,
+33 (0)1 43 29 19 60
vanessa@mariawettergren.com

HANNE FRIIS

TORRENT

Exhibition at Galerie Maria Wettergren, Paris
1 April - 17 June, 2023

Galerie Maria Wettergren
121 rue Vieille-du-Temple
75003 Paris
+33 (0) 1 43 29 19 60
info@mariawettergren.com
www.mariawettergren.com

© 2023, Galerie Maria Wettergren. All rights reserved.





"...the distinctive character of Friis's art arises from a conjunction of two mediums so historically different as textiles and sculpture."

Jorunn Veiteberg. Writer, curator

HANNE FRIIS
The Sky is the Limit
2022
Plastic; hand-stitched
270 x 100 x 50 cm
Unique piece



The Sky is the Limit, 2022 Detail







HANNE FRIIS
La Vague
2020-22
Imitation leather, steel; hand-stitched
98 x 78 x 75 cm
Unique piece



La Vague, 2022 Detail





“...Friis is not creating narrative or so-called figurative art in a classical sense. She puts her faith in the tangible force of the forms and materials alone. The biomorph formations of the folds of fabrics also suggest various figure types. In the mass of swirling material, circles and spirals might easily take form.”

Jorunn Veiteberg. Writer, curator





HANNE FRIIS
Dance
2022
Imitation leather, steel; hand-stitched
198 x 50 x 30 cm
Unique piece



Dance, 2022 Detail

“My sculptures have the potential to grow, and because I have to use a lot of strength to make them, the power of creation is also part of it... They used to be more vulnerable, but now I increasingly see vitality and strength in them – there is so much power in all living things.”

Hanne Friis





Exhibition view *Circulation*, The Vigeland Museum, Norway, 2022-2023

“Many of the sculptures in her exhibition at the Vigeland Museum are made from various plastics, including silicon, artificial leather and vinyl. These are materials that used to represent the latest in modernity and progress. Today they are a serious environmental thread and are seen by many in a negative light. Side by side with Vigeland’s plaster, bronze, and marble statues, they represent something cheap, synthetic, prosaic and lowbrow. At the same time, Friis’s artistic transformation of the plastic materials into sculptures alters their status, imbuing them with elevated and lasting values.”

Jorunn Veiteberg. Writer, curator

HANNE FRIIS

Flood

2020-22

Imitation leather, steel; hand-stitched

72 x 80 x 110 cm

Unique piece



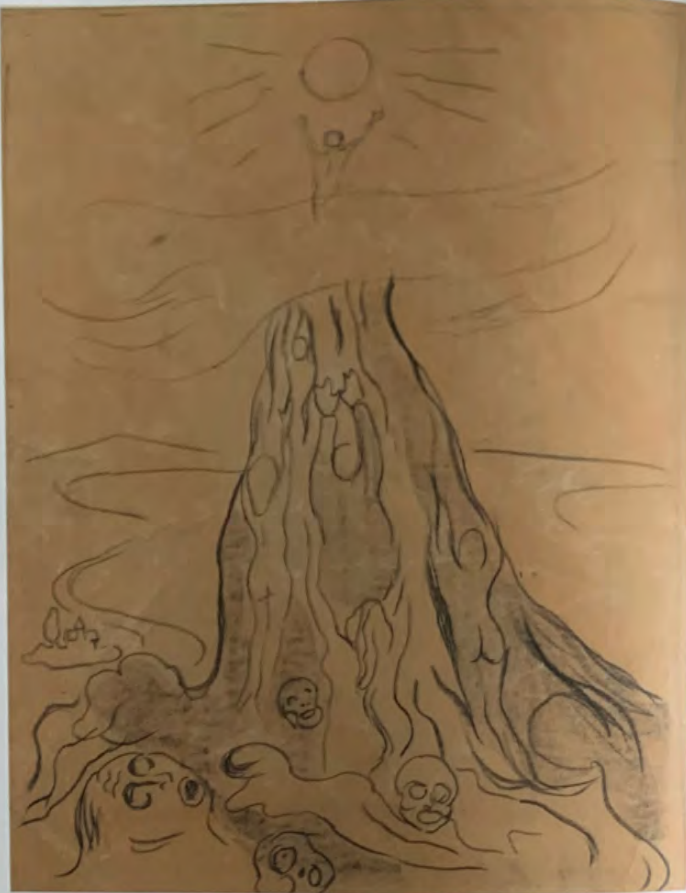


Exhibition view *Circulation*, The Vigeland Museum, Norway, 2022-2023



HANNE FRIIS
The Mountain
2022
Faux leather, steel; hand-stitched
96 x 138 x 96 cm
Unique piece





Cat. 194
Edvard Munch
The Human Mountain, 1897-98



Cat. 195
Gustav Vigeland
Human Mountain, 1919







HANNE FRIIS
Imprint III
2022
Concrete
20,5 x 67 x 67 cm
Unique piece



Imprint III, 2022 Detail



Exhibition view *Circulation*, The Vigeland Museum, Norway, 2022-2023

HANNE FRIIS
Shiny Wave
2020
Natural dyed viscose; hand-stitched
135 x 120 x 25 cm
Unique piece



“Although there is a high degree of abstraction, the abundance of material in her draperies invokes a sense of something luxurious and alluring. The sculptures are both sensuous and sensual, and I would imagine that they might arouse fetishistic fantasies in people with a silk or rubber compulsion.”

Jorunn Veiteberg. Writer, curator





HANNE FRIIS
Gorge II
2020
Natural dyed viscose; hand-stitched
90 x 60 cm
Unique piece



Gorge II, 2020 Detail

HANNE FRIIS
Grey Monument II
2018
Cotton canvas dyed by oak acorn and iron mordant; hand-stitched
60 cm x 43 cm
Unique piece





Grey Monument II, 2018 Detail



HANNE FRIIS
Paris I
2021
Sennelier oil pastel on paper
101 x 69 cm (framed)
Unique piece

HANNE FRIIS
Paris II
2021
Sennelier oil pastel on paper
101 x 69 cm (framed)
Unique piece





HANNE FRIIS
Paris III
2021
Sennelier oil pastel on paper
101 x 69 cm (framed)
Unique piece



Exhibition view *Circulation*, The Vigeland Museum, Norway, 2022-2023



Hanne Friis

b. 1972, Norway
Lives and works in Norway

Before specializing in textile art, Hanne Friis studied sculpture and painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Trondheim between 1992 and 1996. Today, Hanne Friis is considered one of the most influential Norwegian contemporary artists working with textile. Friis has exhibited worldwide, including

a major solo exhibition at the Vigeland Museum, Oslo, Norway in October 2022 - 2023. Her works are included in several important public and private collections, such as the National Museum of Art, Oslo, Norway; National Museum of Decorative Arts, Trondheim, Norway; Haugar Kunstmuseum, Tønsberg, Norway; West Norway Museum of Decorative Arts, Bergen, and the Norwegian Parliament, Oslo.

Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

1992-1996	Academy of Fine Arts, Trondheim, Norway
1993	Myndlista- og Handidaskóli, Reykjavik, Island
1991-92	Rogaland Art School, Stavanger, Norway
1990-91	Bergen Art School, Bergen, Norway

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2023-24	Tårnsalen, KODE Art Museum, Bergen, Norway
2022	The Vigeland Museum, Oslo, Norway
2020	Hidden Patterns, KRAFT, Bergen, Norway
1019	Phases, Galerie Maria Wettergren, Paris, France
2018	Spiral, Trafo Kunsthall, Asker, Norway
2017	New Ornaments, ARTendal, Arendal, Norway
2016	Metamorphoses, Kunstnerforbundet, Oslo, Norway
2010	MJUK, Ram Galleri, Oslo, Norway
	Layers, Gustavsbergs Konsthall, Gustavsberg, Sweden
	Layers, Kunstnerforbundet, Oslo, Norway
2007	Konservativen, Punkt Ø, Halden, Norway
	Inside out and round and round, Soft, Oslo, Norway
2006	Change, Akershus kunstnersenter, Lillestrøm, Norway
2003	Connections, Tromsø Kunstforening, Tromsø, Norway
	Connections, Galleri F15, Jeløya, Norway
1998	Mellow, UKS Galleri, Oslo, Norway

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2022	PAD London, Galerie Maria Wettergren, London, UK
	TEFAF New York, Galerie Maria Wettergren, New York, US
	PAD Paris, Galerie Maria Wettergren, Paris, France
2021	Design Miami Basel, Galerie Maria Wettergren, Switzerland
2020	Seinäjoki Kunsthalle, Finland
	TEFAF Maastricht, Galerie Maria Wettergren, Maastricht, Netherlands

Nouvelle Vague, Galerie Maria Wettergren, Paris, France
 December constellations, Buer Gallery, Oslo, Norway
 Nice to (finally) meet you, Seinajoki Kunsthalle, Finland
 Dream Within a Dream, QB Gallery, Oslo, Norway
 2019 Kristiansands Kunsthall, Kristiansand, Norway Revelations, Grand Palais, Paris, France
 2018 Manners of Communication, Ways of Telling, Dropsfabrikken, Trondheim, Norway
 Tissage Tressage, Foundation Villa Datris, L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, France
 The Forgetfulness is Full of Memories, MARSO Gallery, Mexico City, Mexico
 2017 Re:construction, Hint Project, Aarhus, Denmark
 Disclosing the Uncanny, Kristin Hjellegjerde, London, UK
 2016 Hanging Gardens, Kunsthall Grenland, Porsgrunn, Norway
 2015 Soft Monuments, KODE Art Museum, Bergen, Norway
 Tenthaus, Oslo, Norway
 2014 We are Living on a Star, Henie Onstad Art Center, Norway
 CRAFT!, Liljevalchs Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden
 2013 Edvard Munch 150th Anniversary, Åsgårdstrand, Norway
 A Thousands Threads, Lillehammer Art Museum, Norway
 2012 National Art Exhibition, Oslo Central Station, Norway
 Norwegian Craft 2012, Museum of Decorative Arts & Design, Oslo, Norway
 Balanced – Unbalanced, Kunstbanken Hedmark, Norway
 2011 Collect 2011, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
 2010 Post Fossil, 21_21 Design Sight Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
 2009 Bomuldsfabriken, Arendal, Norway
 Tendencities, Galleri F 15, Punkt Ø, Norway
 2008 Norwegian pictures, Oslo Cityhall, Galleri Brandstup, Norway
 A world of Folk, Sandnes, Stavanger 2008, Norway
 2005-06 Objects, tradition and renewal, SKINN, Norway
 2002 Uro, Nordnorsk Art Center, Svolvær, Norway
 To see and be seen, Østfold Art Center, Norway
 2001 Treff, Bergen Art Museum, Norway
 A world of Folk, Sandnes, Stavanger 2008, Norway
 1998 Castor Fiber, UKS Gallery, Oslo, Norway
 1997 Diagnose, Stavanger Kunstforening, Norway
 Flash, Sandvika Teater, Bærum, Norway
 1996 Trivial Groove, Galleri F15, Jeløya, Norway
 Frisbee, Hordaland Art Center, Bergen, Norway
 1995 Bergen Ginseng, Galleri Otto Plonk, Bergen, Norway

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

2018 The National Museum, Oslo, Norway
 2017 The Museum of Decorative Art, Trondheim, Norway
 2016 The National Museum, Oslo, Norway
 The City of Oslo Art Collection, Norway
 2014 LO, gift to Hamar Culture House, Hamar, Norway
 2012 The West Norway Museum of Decorative Art, Bergen, Norway
 2009 The Museum of Decorative Art, Trondheim, Norway
 2003 The Art Museum of Northern Norway, Tromsø, Norway
 1998 The Art Museum of Northern Norway, Tromsø, Norway
 1996 Arts Council, Norway

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COMMISSIONS

2018 Aasta Hansteen, Statoil Art Programme, Norway
 2016 Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Ås, Norway
 Sentralen, Savings Bank Foundation, Oslo, Norway
 Hønefoss High School, Buskerud, Norway
 2015 Tromsø Police Headquarter, Tromsø, Norway

AWARDS AND GRANTS

2016 Norwegian Visual Artists Commission Fund, 10 year work grant
 2013 Norwegian Visual Artists Commission Fund, 3 year work grant
 2012 Norwegian Visual Artists Commission Fund, 1 year work grant
 2011 Norwegian Visual Artists Commission Fund, 1 year work grant
 2010 Norwegian Visual Artists Commission Fund, 2 year work grant
 2009 Norwegian Visual Artists Commission Fund, 1 year work grant
 2008 Norwegian Visual Artists Commission Fund, 1 year work grant
 2007 Norwegian Visual Artists Commission Fund, 1 year work grant
 2005 Norwegian Ministry of Culture, Work grant for young artists, 2 year
 2004 Norwegian Visual Artists Commission Fund, 1 year work grant
 2002 Chr. Lorck Schives legacy
 1998 Norwegian Ministry of Culture, Work grant for young artists, 1 year



MARIAWETTERGREN
GALERIE

GALERIE MARIA WETTERGREN
121, RUE VIEILLE DU TEMPLE
75003 PARIS
+33 (0) 1 43 29 19 60
INFO@MARIAWETTERGREN.COM
WWW.MARIAWETTERGREN.COM