

In the article “Thing Theory” (2001) the American critical theorist Bill Brown writes:

”These days, you can read books on the pencil, the zipper, the toilet, the banana, the chair, the potato, the bowler hat. These days, history can unabashedly begin with things and with the senses by which we apprehend them; like a modernist poem, it begins in the street, with the smell ”of frying oil, shag tobacco and unwashed beer glasses.”

And we, *ourselves*, Brown points out, are bodies among other things.

With the photo *Balloon in coffee press* the photographer Jakob Hunosøe adds yet another thing to our world, to our microcosmic kitchen in ‘Forskerhuset’.

In Hunosøe’s photos *everyday things* become more than *just* things or tools with a function. They get their own lives, staring back at us, as they mirror our bodies, our actions, our thoughts and emotions. Like a surrealist work of art – think of Dali’s *Lobster Phone* or his melting clocks – *things* in Jakob Hunosøe’s photos don’t behave like they are “supposed” to. Like debris from a surrealist’s dream they inhabit Jakob Hunosøe’s photos, when they – as for this one – take up anthropomorphic shapes.

We might also be reminded of still lebens by the Dutch 17th century painters. Except the fact that in this contemporary still leben tin pots and hourglass has been replaced by a Danish Bodum coffee brewer and a black balloon, both showing themselves of from their most sculpturous sides within a rigorous composition. In a humorous tone this photo wags its finger at us: Remember – memento mori.

The Dutch masters didn’t know about the Bodum brewer, but I’m sure they would have loved it for its potential of telling a story of disaster in a pictorial way. This picture contains a call for every one of us to come make an end of it and perform the destructive act and put an end to the misér – or fulfill the task, depending how you look at it! This is not only a sadomasochistic coffee experience!

The photo was originally exhibited at your solo *Out of Order* at Peter Lav Gallery in 2012. You’re educated from the Royal Danish Art Academy of Fine Arts in 2004. Lately, last year, you were awarded by Statens Kunstfond for the exhibition *Kulør, Kugle, Kant* – an exhibition at Rønnebæksholm where you and two colleagues confronted yourself with paintings of colour, shape and form by the Danish modernist painter Vilhelm Lundstrøm.

We are really proud to be able to unveil your photo, *Balloon in coffee press*, here in Forskerhuset. Thank you so much for being so cooperative, when we wanted a BIG version. And thanks a lot to Institute of Culture and Communication at Aarhus University for financing it! Jakob, you might wanna say a few words on this photo and the way you like to work?