

ABOUT

MIRROR

REFLECTING

FOOTBALL

BY JAKOB HUNOSØE

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OM

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In a similar way, to how many of my other works emerged, the idea to Mirror reflecting football arose from a fleeting observation. I saw an object reflected in a make-up mirror. If an object could fill the entire mirror face, then it would look like it had replaced the mirror, as if it was stuck in between the frame instead of the mirror itself. I took a photo with my phone to catch the thought. I use my phone as a sketchbook, and collect continuous small observations which I believe can be used as photos.

But which object should the mirror reflect? Obviously, the object has to be round. It could be a fruit. But it is rare that the fruits are completely round, and besides I had just made a photo with a melon, so that might be too much fruit. Therefore, I spool through photos and think about what kinds of round objects I have worked with. Tennis balls, golf balls, basketballs, oranges: I do not want to reuse objects too much, even though this cannot always be avoided. For instance I have many lamps in many of my works. But never a football. Furthermore, it has a size which

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Ideen til *Mirror reflecting football* opstod, som ved mange af mine andre værker, på baggrund af en flygtig observation. Jeg så et objekt spejle sig i et make-up spejl. Hvis et objekt kunne fyldte hele spejfladen ud, ville det ligne at objekten havde erstattet spejlet. At det sad fast imellem bøjerne i stedet for spejlet. Jeg tog et billede med min telefon for at fange tanken. Jeg bruger min telefon som skitsebog. Og opsamler løbende små observationer, jeg tænker kan bruges til et billede.

Men hvilket objekt skal spejlet spejle? Det skal naturligvis være rundt. Det kunne være en frugt. Men de er jo sjældent helt runde, og desuden har jeg netop lavet et billede med en melon, og så bliver det måske for meget frugt. Så spoler jeg igennem tidligere billeder og tænker på, hvad jeg har arbejdet med af runde objekter. Tennisbolde, golfbolde, basketbolde, appelsiner. Jeg ønsker ikke at genbruge objekter for meget. Selvom det ikke kan undgås helt. Jeg har f. eks. en del lamper i mine værker. Men aldrig en fodbold. Desuden har den en stør-

I think would very likely fit the mirror when it is reflected. This is to say that the ball is bigger than the mirror's surface, but when it is reflected from a certain distance it will fit.

At this point the idea is in place. The blueprint for the house is final. Now I need to find the mirror and the ball. Here Google's image search function was a huge help. A simple straightforward search for make-up mirror and football respectively leads to my finding the webshops which have exactly the specific mirror and the ball I have in mind. It is essential that they are exactly the right objects. I quickly learn that a make-up mirror is not just a make-up mirror. I need what is very simple. The same applies to the football. It shall fit the idea of the object in question. A perfect example of the object. In all countries one will recognize it as a football. The idea of a football is a ball made of leather sewn together into black and white sections. One advantage working with these everyday objects is that they can be used after the photo is taken. They can return to fulfil their

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else, jeg formoder ville kunne passe med spejlet, når den spejles. Det vil sige, at bolden er større end spejfladen, men når den spejles med en vis afstand, så vil det passe.

Nu er ideen på plads. Skelettet til huset står færdigt. Nu skal jeg finde spejlet og bolden. Her er Googles billedsøgefunktion en stor hjælp. En simpel søgning på henholdsvis make-up spejl og fodbold gør, at jeg finder frem til de webshops, der har netop det spejl og den bold, jeg har i tankerne. Det er afgørende, at det er de helt rigtige objekter. Jeg lærer hurtigt, at et make-up spejl ikke bare er et make-up spejl. Jeg skal bruge det, der er helt enkelt. Det samme gælder for fodbolden. Det skal være ideen om det pågældende objekt. Indbegrebet af objektet. På tværs af alle lande vil man se, at det er en fodbold. Ideen om en fodbold er en læderbold syet sammen af sorte og hvide felter. En fordel ved at arbejde med disse hverdagens objekter er også, at de kan bruges efter at billedet er taget. De kan gå tilbage til at opfylde deres oprindelige funktioner

original function of being a football or a make-up mirror again. In this case it was easy for me to find what I needed. At other times, I have to take extra trips to the local supermarkets, DIY centers, and hardware dealers to find exactly the right bowl or bucket. The hunt for the right object is an essential part of the process.

For the successful carrying out of my plan, I use a backdrop. Here, I increasingly choose the anonymous: the clear background where there is not much information that can shift the focus from what I would like to draw the viewers' attention to. If you see a staircase in the photo you think: where does it lead to? If you see a window you think: I wonder where this photo has been taken? And then the thought of that will occupy everything. This being said, the result can also be too clinical. The image is not supposed to look like a professional photo-shoot, where the object floats in a pure, white nothingness. One is allowed to see a tabletop and sense a wall. For every picture to be able to live in its own universe, the background has to be different in each case. For this particular image, *Mirror*

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og være en fodbold eller et make-up spejl igen. I dette tilfælde gik det nemt med at finde, hvad jeg skulle bruge. Andre gange må jeg tage flere ture til de lokale supermarkeder, bygemarkeder og isenkrammere for at finde den helt rigtige skål eller spand. Jagten efter det rigtige objekt er en væsentlig del af processen.

Til selve udførelsen har jeg brug for en baggrund. Her vælger jeg i stigende grad det helt anonyme. Den rensede baggrund, hvor der ikke er for mange informationer, der ville kunne flytte fokus fra det, jeg gerne vil pege på. Ser du i baggrunden en trappe, tænker du: hvor fører den hen? Ser du et vindue tænker du: hvor er billedet mon taget? Og så vil den tanke fylde. Når det er sagt, kan det også blive for klinisk. Det skal ikke ligne et professionelt photo-shoot, hvor objektet ligesom svæver i en ren, hvid intethed. Man må gerne se en bordplade og fornemme en væg. For at hvert billede skal kunne leve i sit eget univers, må baggrunden være forskellig fra gang til gang. Til dette værk, *Mirror reflecting*

*reflecting football*, I bought a white sheet of masonite which I could put behind the mirror because the walls were yellow in the house I was working in. And in the photo *Melon in bowl with water*, I use that particular yellow background. The yellow background suited the green melon.

It turned out that my idea of the size of the football fitted well with the mirror face. When the ball is placed two meters away from the mirror, it fits perfectly into the reflection in the mirror. Of course, I didn't consider the fact that the ball had to be angled a little because otherwise it would be in front of the camera. Therefore, the ball is placed to the left of the camera. Due to the fact that the mirror is only placed on an angle, the ball appears to be totally round. Now it is only a question of precision: to get the exact right distance to the mirror. That demands the best trimming. Does the ball need to be turned so it is possible to see the black and white squares equally? No, it needs to be turned just a little bit, otherwise the pattern will become too symmetrical. Here the light is important.

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*football*, købte jeg en hvid masonitplade, jeg kunne stille bag ved spejlet, fordi væggene i det hus, jeg arbejdede i, var gule. Og på billedet *Melon in bowl with water*, bruger jeg netop denne gule baggrund. Den gule baggrund stod godt med den grønne melon.

Det viser sig, at mine forestillinger om fodboldens størrelse passer fint med spejfladen. Når bolden kommer omkring to meter væk, sidder den perfekt i spejlet. Jeg havde ikke tænkt på, at spejlet naturligvis skulle vinkles lidt, da fodbolden jo ellers ville være foran kameraet. Bolden er placeret til venstre for kameraet. Da spejlet kun er vinklet en smule, fremstår bolden stadig som helt rund. Nu er det et spørgsmål om præcision. At få den helt rigtige afstand til spejlet. Den bedste beskæring. Skal bolden vendes, så man ser de sorte og hvide felter lige meget? Nej. Den skal lige drejes en smule, så mønstret ikke bliver for symmetrisk. Her er lyset vigtigt. Jeg arbejder altid med naturligt lys, så jeg bruger de lysindfald, der er i huset. Når det hele er på plads tages billedet,

I always work with natural light so I use the inflow of light that is in the house. When everything is in place, the photo is taken, and then it is all packed away again. And the ball is kicked onto the lawn where it seems to be useless as a football. Maybe the manufacturer also thought that it should only look like a football.

I photograph with an analogue Hasselblad medium format camera. It makes sense for me to work analogue because it is a principle in my production to be able to make everything from what is in the world around me and at my disposal, without digital manipulation. Twelve exposures can be made on a film. Usually I shoot six per arrangement. Partly to make sure that I get the right exposure, partly to have one or two duplicates in case a negative has been damaged. I do not make many variations of the arrangement. It is important to decide on the spot how the work shall be and not later when I sit in front of the screen. In a similar way, to the limitations of the square format camera frame that I must relate to and work with, there is also a limit to the number of exposures per film.

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og alt kan pakkes væk igen. Og bolden sparkes ud på græsplænen, hvor den viser sig totalt ubrugelig som fodbold. Måske tænkte producenten også bare, at det skulle ligne en fodbold.

Jeg fotograferer med et analogt mellemformat Hasselblad kamera. Det giver mening for mig at arbejde analogt, da det er en pointe i min produktion at kunne lave alt i virkeligheden ud fra det forhåndenværende søms princip og uden digital manipulation. På en film kan der laves tolv eksponeringer. Jeg skyder som regel seks på én opstilling. Dels for at være sikker på at jeg får den rette eksponering, dels for at have en dublet eller to hvis et negativ bliver beskadiget. Jeg laver ikke mange variationer af opstillingen. Det er vigtigt at tage beslutningen om, hvordan værket skal være på stedet og ikke senere, når jeg sidder og ser det på skærmen. Ligesom kameraets kvadratiske format er en ramme, jeg må forholde mig til og arbejde under, er det begrænsede antal eksponeringer pr. film det også.

When the film is developed, I scan and trim the negative, remove dust and make some small color corrections. After that it is printed. The most natural thing would be to do it all in the darkroom. But partly because the chemistry is toxic, and the durability of the prints and the paper is of such high quality that it does not make sense to do it other than for nostalgic reasons.

It is not always the case that my ideas and drafts reach the framing stage. There are other things that can go wrong. The right objects cannot be found. Or basically the idea cannot be realized because of things I have overlooked. I do not make many photos a year. I collect ideas and then I make the time and the space to create the images. Many of my creations have, as ideas, subsequently smouldered beneath the surface for a long time before they have been carried out.

*Mirror reflecting football* was an example where everything succeeded from idea to execution.

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Når filmen er fremkaldt, scanner jeg negativet. Beskærer, fjerner støv og laver nogle gange små farvekorrektioner. Derefter printes det. Det mest naturlige ville være at lave alt i mørkekammer. Men dels er kemien giftig, dels er printerne og papirets holdbarhed blevet så god, at det ikke giver mening uddover den nostalgiske.

Det er ikke altid, mine ideer og skitser når frem til indramningen. Der er flere ting, der kan gå galt. De rigtige objekter kan ikke findes. Eller helt grundlæggende kan ideen ikke realiseres, fordi der er en ting, jeg har overset. Jeg laver ikke mange billeder om året. Jeg samler sammen og skaber så tid og rum til at lave billederne. Mange af mine værker har altså ligget og ulmet som ideer i lang tid, før de er blevet ført ud i livet.

*Mirror reflecting football* var et eksempel, hvor alt lykkedes fra ide til udførelse.