

$2^{-1/4-n/2} \times 2^{1/4-n/2}$ **Heidi Hove and Jens Axel Beck****Opening: Friday 28 May, 2010, 8 PM****Performance/ work in progress (open to the public):****31 May – 3 June, 2–6 PM****Artist talk: Saturday 12 June, 2010, 6PM****The exhibition runs 29 May - 27 June, 2010****Open: Fri - Sun, 2-6PM and by appointment**

Art Laboratory Berlin is proud to launch its 18th exhibition $2^{-1/4-n/2} \times 2^{1/4-n/2}$ by Heidi Hove and Jens Axel Beck, and with it a new exhibition series – *Artists in Dialog*.

Each exhibition in *Artists in Dialog* will take the form of a discursive examination between two artists, whose work has a common point of contact (e.g. in aesthetics, theme or process). The exhibition will be based around each artist interacting with the other's artistic position. It is our intention that their artworks come together not through a series of traditional curatorial (and hierarchical) decisions, but that the artists, working together, find a specific form of display for their own and each other's works. Thus, this form of exhibition as dialog will present an additional phenomenon: both artists will take part intensively in the curatorial aspect of the project, breaking down traditional barriers between artistic and curatorial production.



Heidi Hove, *In Memory of You*, 2008, Copenhagen



Jens Axel Beck, *Chest of Drawers Without Cherry Laminate*, 2008

Both Heidi Hove and Jens Axel Beck are interdisciplinary artists, whose practice includes sculptural objects and installations as well as architectural, spatial and social interventions. A point of convergence in their work is a focus on daily life and the public and private spaces that we daily travel through. One example of this is Heidi Hove's inscribing of an American memorial bench with the phrase "IN MEMORY OF YOU", whose open message and diverging design generates a confusion among users of the bench in the mixed neighborhood of Sundholm in Copenhagen.

Their work examines how we navigate and organise ourselves in the world. Through simple and diverse manipulations, the daily and the recognisable are brought out of their regular condition. For instance in his sculpture *Chest of Drawers Without Cherry Laminate* Jens Axel Beck has removed the laminate from an everyday bedroom chest, and placed the pieces of laminate in jars that are displayed alongside the altered piece of furniture.

Thus common and ordinary objects are manipulated, copied and placed in new connections for the purpose of changing the meaning or perception of how we look and deal with these in our daily

lives. In addition, humour plays an important role in their work, and it is often used to start a dialogue with the viewer.

The exhibition title $2^{-1/4-n/2} \times 2^{1/4-n/2}$ is the formula for calculating the dimensions of the paper sizes in the ISO A series. However, the actual millimetre dimensions in the standard A series have been calculated by progressively rounding down any division-by-two result, which make the formula slightly imprecise.

Within the A series you will find the standard paper size ISO A4, which are widely used in offices all over the world today. At Art Laboratory Berlin the A4 will be the basic element for building up the exhibition. Literally speaking, the exhibition space will take form as a laboratory and serve as a platform for investigation and research of their artistic practices through text and pictures for creating a spatial collage.

The starting point for the exhibition is an office setting, where the artists will be gathering material and information from the Internet. Different materials will be printed out and copied on A4 paper. Both artists will go through each other's pile of papers and curate some of the materials to put them into a collage and into new connections and the rest will not be used and will stay on the desk or be thrown in a paper basket. The work will start several days before the opening and will continue through the first week. The composition of the collage will therefore be a growing work in progress, which the public can witness during the first week of the exhibition in the presence of the artists at the art space.

Heidi Hove, born 1976 in Denmark, studied at the Funen Art Academy, Odense, DK, and the California College of the Arts, San Francisco, USA. She has participated in exhibitions in Denmark, Macedonia, Germany, Belgium and USA. Since 2006 Heidi Hove is a co-director of the artist-apartment and residency *The Berlin Office*, Neukölln/Kreuzberg, Berlin. She lives and works in Copenhagen.

Jens Axel Beck, born in 1976 in Denmark, studied at The Funen Academy of Fine Arts, Odense, DK and The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, department of Media Art, Copenhagen, DK. He has participated in exhibitions in Denmark, Germany, Finland and USA. He lives and works in Copenhagen.

Both Heidi Hove and Jens Axel Beck are co-founders and curators of the Copenhagen artists run space **Koh-i-noor** which has existed since 2004.

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