

BIO Cecilie Gravesen



Cecilie's Dutch Great Grandmother, Johanna Pothast, 1960's. Her husband Bernard was a descendant of the notorious 15th Century pirate Hans Pothorst.

Born 1975 in Copenhagen

Has since lived and worked in Copenhagen and London

Cecilie Gravesen's artwork seeks to identify elements of resistance in material culture, and her films and installations are guided by an interest in the various thresholds identified when spirit takes residence in material form. Conveying a quality of sketch or rehearsal, the work inquires about the status that we attribute to objects and collections.

As with the true story of an 18th Century socially motivated female puppeteer, or the account of two identical villages erected as a result of Portuguese politics, Cecilie navigates through overlooked and marginal events with an interpretive documentary method. Through found objects and real-life encounters, the work makes tangible a fragmented narrative, exploring the translation between reality and rumour, authoritative storytelling and subjective memory.

Cecilie looks closely at imbued, ritual objects. Her interest, especially in the way in which these objects are 'managed' by museums, has resulted in a series of films, and in a recent commission for the UK Crafts Council that dramatises the council's handling collection. When the metaphysical intent of a ritual object meets with scientific concerns for heritage preservation, an almost tangible material friction arises, and this in itself has become Cecilie's artistic material. The work suggests that our ways of negotiating with such spirit energies is indicative for wider perceptions within society, and thus reflects on how the legacy of colonialism might present itself.

Cecilie's work has led to an ongoing dialogue with a range of source communities and heritage experts including the UK National Trust. The work has been screened in the context of Archaeology, Conservation, Museology, Ethnography and Architecture, and Cecilie holds a position as Honorary Research Assistant at University College London, Department for Archaeology.

Recent exhibitions include: 'Crafting Narratives', the UK Crafts Council; 'The One Minutes', Sandberg Instituut, Amsterdam; 'Politics', Arcade Gallery London; 'Copenhagen Video Art Festival', Nikolaj Udstillingsbygning; 'Folklore og Folkelighed', 44 Møn, Denmark.

A recent article in the peer reviewed 'Journal of Conservation and Museum Studies', suggests artistic practice as a vehicle for dialogue in the context of conservation (<http://www.jcms-journal.com/article/view/jcms.1011201/35>)

Alongside her art practice, she Cecilie Gravesen curates exhibitions with a focus on artist film and interventions in historical archives, most recently with a commissioned installation of Joshua Oppenheimer's film *The Act of Killing* at The Danish Film Institute. She is involved in the production of artist moving image at Film and Video Umbrella London.

Cecilie studied Fine Art at Chelsea College of Art, London; Curating Contemporary Art at the Royal College of Art, London and Literature at Copenhagen University.