

Eighteen presents

Soft Boxing

- An exhibition by Frederik Nystrup-Larsen & Oliver Sundqvist

OPENING RECEPTION: FRIDAY JANUARY 18. TIME: 17.00 - 20.00

EXHIBITION PERIOD: JANUARY 19 - FEBRUARY 16. 2019

part the wild horse's mane three times
 white crane spreads wings
 brush knee twist step
 rusty palms
 turn to moon
 repulse a monkey four times
 relax
 orange dance with lemons
 carry the tiger over the mountain
 snake creeps through the grass
 wave to people in long sleeves
 press your face against your mind
 become mercury
 to fold a carpet
 think about where the white goes
 when the snow is melting
 breath in
 breath out
 left grasp birds tail
 right grasp birds tail
 play the lute
 make your snake eyes

green dragon drops water
 fair lady works shuttles
 dive for pearls
 and step up to form seven stars
 single whip
 wave hands like clouds
 single whip
 right heel kick
 punch ears with both fists
 left heel kick
 hold rumors in stretched arms
 you are allergic
 lower movement stand on right leg
 needle at sea bottom
 flash the arm
 turn block parry and punch
 appear closing
 cross hands

- Frederik Nystrup-Larsen & Oliver Sundqvist, 2019

Soft Boxing is Danish artist duo Frederik Nystrup-Larsen & Oliver Sundqvist's first solo exhibition with the gallery, for which they have developed a series of 9 luminous sculptures of stainless steel, coated acrylic knit and fluorescent LED pipes. The works offer a new reading, bending and breaking of the definition of sculpture as form, spatial relations, volume, line, color, texture. *Soft Boxing* is motion arrested in time.

The title refers to Tai Chi, the immemorial Chinese martial art consisting of gentle and forceful continuous movements with combination of mind, strength and proper breathing. *Soft Boxing* is a meticulously phenomenological exploration of this gradual transition of flowing movements, one after another. Breath in, breath out. Zen. Channeling energy from mind, through the body and its gestures, onto the material, *Soft Boxing* is rendered as a sculptural legacy of Tai Chi's aesthetic movements.

Connoting Tai Chi's poetic charm and fundamental Yin/Yang-duality, each sculpture consists of a skeleton of bended steel strings, determining the object's biomorphic form – reviving the 1950s idiom of organic design – stretched by a seamless coated acrylic-knitted tube, swung in a direction, a gesture, a command. *Soft Boxing* is 9 unique variations of this ritual. 9 displacements of form within the transference. We are confronted with these anthropomorphic shapes, quite physically, before they catch our eyes as 9 shadows of the previous and the following luminescent creature, some dangle from the ceiling, other balance or sit on fragile legs, resembling a butterfly chrysalis or a praying mantis.

Light – immaterial and weightless – have the potential to carry evocative power. Characterized by its weightless luminosity, the sculptures provide a softened, indirect light for a more ambient experience. The delicate, fibrous sleeves disguise the shaped fluorescent LED pipes, while softening their harsh glow, transforming the electric light back to the light of our origin – the natural light from the sun and moon – and this is the light that will continue to fill our rooms.

Frederik Nystrup-Larsen (b. 1992) and Oliver Sundqvist (b. 1991) is a Danish artist duo and currently MA-students at Royal College of Art (Sculpture) and The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, School of Design (Furniture). Embossed by their own time, they easily cross boundaries between various media; installations, sculpture, interior design and recycled objects with a flair for treating complex materials with dignity and innovative creativity. Recent exhibitions include *Eros Torso*, a collection of vases made of repurposed single-use plastic containers, created for the flower shop Tableau in Copenhagen, and *Mater*, a series of pigmented concrete vases exhibited at the refurbished Noma restaurant in Copenhagen, the design store Totokaelo in New York and at VOLTA14 as part of V1 Gallery's booth presentation *Tables, Pots and Plants*. They have recently received acclaim in *The New York Times*, *Sight Unseen*, *Ignant* and *Dezeen*. *Soft Boxing* is their first solo exhibition with V1 Gallery / Eighteen.