

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Toronto, August 1, 2012)

Det synlige (The Visible)

Else Marie Hagen

September 14 – October 13, 2012

Friday September 14 | Talk 6–7 pm | Opening reception 7–9 pm

www.gallery44.org/hagen



Else Marie Hagen, *Panorama*, 123 x 254 cm c-print, 2009

Gallery 44 is thrilled to bring the work of Norwegian artist Else Marie Hagen to Canada for the first time. Hagen's astute use of visual language crosses cultural boundaries and brings a new perspective to our centre for contemporary photography.

Having created sculptures that appear to be made of photographs, and photographs that appear to be made of sculptures, the Norwegian photographer Else Marie Hagen presents a series of works that oscillate between depictions of three-dimensional and two-dimensional space, challenge the distinction between the surface of the image and the subjects they represent, and deliberately obstruct viewers' identification with, or imaginary access to the image.

Each of the works that appear in this exhibition references different histories of representation such as landscape painting, medieval icon painting, and glamour photography, intervening into the construction of pictorial space. Cumulatively, her works explore the unstable relationship between the image as surface and the image as object, creating the uncanny effect that her subjects appear to be trapped inside the image. After viewing these works it isn't altogether clear whether we're *inside* or *outside* of the world images create for us.

– Amish Morrell, catalogue essay writer



Else Marie Hagen, *Four Times Tomorrow*, chromogenic prints in 135 x 100 cm Plexiglas box, 2012

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Else Marie Hagen, born 1963 in Stavanger, Norway, works with photography and photography based installations. Based on a conceptual approach, Hagen's work explores and analyzes features of today's normative visuality. It questions the image, both the meaning that might be derived from its formal qualities and the condition of the image as it appears in a wider social context. Hagen's work has been acquired by public and private collections in Norway such as The National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design, Nordnorsk Art Museum, Bergen Art Museum, Preus Museum, Statoil Art Collection, Storebrand Art Collection, Nordea Norway Art Collection.

ABOUT THE WRITER

Amish Morrell is Editor of C Magazine, a quarterly journal on contemporary international art, and Special Lecturer in Visual Studies at the University of Toronto, Mississauga. He has written for publications including Art Papers, Ciel Variable, Fuse Magazine, History of Photography, and Prefix Photo. His curatorial projects include *The Frontier is Here*, an exhibition of works by contemporary Canadian and international artists that explores landscape and identity, and *Nightwalks with Teenagers*, a collaborative project to produce new artworks that investigate walking as an aesthetic practice, produced by Mammalian Diving Reflex. He recently edited *The Anti-Catalogue (The Model, 2010)*, a book on contemporary artists' collectives, and is published in *Byproduct: On the Excess of Embedded Art Practices (YYZBooks, 2010)*, edited by Marisa Jahn.

Gallery 44 gratefully acknowledges the Office of Contemporary Art Norway and the Royal Norwegian Embassy for their support of this exhibition.

Gallery 44 is open Tuesday to Saturday 11 am to 5 pm

Gallery 44 Centre for Contemporary Photography is a non-profit artist-run centre committed to photography as a multi-faceted and ever-changing artform. Founded in 1979 to establish a supportive environment for the development of photography, Gallery 44's mandate is to provide a context for reflection and dialogue on contemporary photography and its related practices. Gallery 44 offers exhibition and publication opportunities to national and international artists, award-winning education programs, and affordable production facilities for artists. Through its programs, Gallery 44 is engaged in changing conceptions of the photographic image and its modes of production.

For more information please contact:

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