

*Bad Moon Rising*, MIKKEL CARL

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The Montana Room | Kunstforeningen GL STRAND I Copenhagen

<http://en.glstrand.dk/exhibitions/current/mikkel-carl.aspx>

The Montana Room in GL STRAND is a special place. Once a year we invite a Danish artist or designer to create a new installation challenging the conventional interior design idiom of the conference room as well as the whole business meeting situation. Soon another radical makeover can be experienced, as the installation *Bad Moon Rising* by Mikkel Carl occupies the room. Generally Mikkel Carl's artistic practice develops in dialogue with such specific contexts, and his work is often characterized by immediate physical presence encoded with manifold cultural references. With *Bad Moon Rising* the artist manages to reveal the specific spatiality and functionality of the Montana Room by means of a most surprising deposit featuring a number of both humorous and critical sources of inspiration.

An enormous sculpture resembling a meteorite – weightless and immensely heavy, mysterious and well-known – hovers above the conference table in the Montana Room. Presumably its very presence will put pressure on the participants of any meeting regardless of their overall position. To some degree this condition reflects the supposedly non-hierarchical power structure of The Knights of the Round Table tale, and it also alludes to Damocles Sword. When he praised Dionysius the Elder of Syracuse as the happiest man in the world, Damocles, according to the legend, was given his seat on the throne, but at the same time the King had a sword hung up by a single horsehair right above his head.

Due to its materiality and play on gravitational pull Mikkel Carl's sculpture also recalls the work of American minimalist Richard Serra. Perhaps in particular the monumental public sculpture *Tilted Arc* the presence of which was deemed such a great disturbance of public order that in 1989 it was removed from Federal Plaza in New York.

*Mikkel Carl is born in 1976 and he lives and works in Sorø/Copenhagen. He has an MFA from The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts and a BA in philosophy from Aarhus University. Alongside his artistic practice he writes, curates and teaches. He is on the board of Overgaden – Institute of Contemporary Art, and also on the Danish Arts Foundation's Committee of Visual Arts Grants Funding appointed in 2016 by the Minister of Culture. Among his latest shows are Now Moving Towards the Inner Circles of Reality, Ana Cristea, New York; The Murderous Narcissism of Minor Differences, 247365, New York; We Are All Workers, Kunsthal Nord, Aalborg; Secondary Object, David Dale Gallery, Glasgow.*