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Bjarne Melgaard Biography

Bjarne Melgaard was born in Sydney, Australia to Norwegian parents in 1967 and after several failed attempts to get in attended the Academy of Fine Arts, Oslo; the Rijksakademie, Amsterdam and the Jan Van Eyck Academy in Maastricht. In 2017, after several decades living abroad, the artist relocated to Norway and currently resides in Oslo.

Through prolific output which encompasses drawing, painting, sculpture and large-scale installations Melgaard pushes the limits of social acceptance and forges a space where subcultures and parallel worlds can coexist. A frequent curator and collaborator, Melgaard has written 14 novels, produced a fashion line and a number of films.

His first solo exhibition outside of Norway was organized by legendary Belgian curator Jan Hoet. Since then, his work has been exhibited extensively in Europe and the United States. Solo presentations of his work have taken place at Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA), London; de Appel arts centre, Amsterdam; Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art, Oslo; Bergen Kunstmuseum, Norway; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; MARTa Herford, Hannover; Red Bull Arts New York; Julia Stoschek Foundation, Berlin and commercial galleries including Galerie Daniel Buchholz, Cologne; Contemporary Fine Arts, Berlin; Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, London; Greene Naftali Gallery, New York and Gavin Brown's Enterprise, New York.

In 2011, Bjarne Melgaard represented Norway at the 54th Venice Biennial. His work has also been included in the 2014 Whitney Biennial, the 5th Lyon Biennale, 12th Lyon Biennale and group exhibitions at Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna; Kunstmuseum Bonn; S.M.A.K., Gent; Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Palais de Tokyo, Paris and White Columns, New York.

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Melgaard's work is in the permanent collections of major museums such as MoMA, New York; MOCA, Los Angeles; the Stedelijk Museum; Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain in Strasbourg, The Astrup Fearnley Museum and Moderna Museum in Stockholm.