

The Kitchen Presents an Exhibition by Matthew Buckingham and Joachim Koester

NEW YORK, NY – The Kitchen is pleased to present the American premiere of Matthew Buckingham's and Joachim Koester's five-channel video installation, *Sandra of the Tuliphouse or How to Live in a Free State*. This collaborative work reflects the multifaceted history of Christiania, a "free city" in Copenhagen, Denmark, which is one of the best-known anarchistic communities in the world. Fictional narratives merge with historical facts in this visual, aural and spatial investigation of both collective memory and individual identity. The exhibition will be on view from April 26

through June 18, 2005. There will be an opening reception on Tuesday, April 26 from 6 - 8pm. Gallery hours are Tuesday - Saturday, 12 - 6 pm. Admission is free.

Each of the five video projections follows Sandra, a fictional character who relocates to the heterogonous, lawless community of Christiania, through a particular story line. As she engages in daily activities in the city with her outsider's perspective, historical and factual information is interwoven with both the unpredictable, subjective flow of her memories and her freely associative observations. Various methods of con-

structing history are filtered through Sandra's experience, and the viewer receives information ranging from the scholarly to the idiosyncratic. Details unfold, for example, not only about the military, social, and political history of Copenhagen, but also about eclectic facts such as the origins of the Danish flag, why men's clothes are buttoned to the right, and the function of pirate cities in 17th century Europe.

The scenes are projected on separate screens within the same space. Each segment is experienced separately, aided by audio speaker-cones that isolate each soundtrack. Because

the scenes can be viewed in any sequence, viewers are able to construct their own narratives from the work. Through the example of Christiania — a contained environment where the assumptions and arbitrary events that shape history can be questioned — the project investigates such broader issues as public versus private space, community and exile, freedom and warfare, revolution and stability, economics and tourism, as well as utopian ideals and their failure.

This exhibition is curated by Debra Singer, Executive Director and Chief Curator, The Kitchen.

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