



Snorre Ytterstad at Landings 1
 Landings Project Space May 8 - 30, 2010

Landings Project Space is proud to present MAY08, 2010, a solo exhibition by Snorre Ytterstad. The exhibition deals with two iconic works of art from the beginning of the 20th century; the dada work *Obstruction* (1920) by Man Ray, and Kazimir Malevich's *Red Square: Painterly Realism of a Peasant Woman in Two Dimensions* (1915).

Ytterstad's work *Obstruction* (after Man Ray) with Hugo Boss Business Shirt -Boss Black, Enzo Pastel Blue (2010) addresses the relationship of war and business. It's said about Man Ray's work that "obstruction is a sculpture that directly references the tragedy of the Great War (WW1). By using a simple object of American consumerism, Man Ray mimicked the senseless piling up of bodies in Europe". Dadaism was mainly an anti-war movement, and a direct reaction to the society that drove entire continents to war and to the traditional art standards determined by that same society.

The motif of the body (bodies) represented by the cloth-hangers in Man Ray's work is reinforced in Ytterstad's shirt. Again, the blue shirt provides associations to corporations, a word derived from *corpus*, the Latin word for body.

Ytterstad's mix of war and business is taken further by the label of the blue shirt, Hugo Boss. Today the corporation specializes in high-end mens- and womenswear mainly for business people. But in the beginning of the 1930's after a bankruptcy Hugo Boss became a member of the Nazi party and an official supplier of uniforms to the SS (*Schutzstaffel*), SA (*Sturmabteilung*, "the brown shirts") and Hitler-jugend.

A Study of the *Red Square: Painterly Realism of a Peasant Woman in Two Dimensions* (2010) has a slightly different starting point, but one recognizes Ytterstad's playful references to a well known art work through the appropriation of a conceptual idea or a title.

The logic is challenged with another pattern. Malevich's square painting is reconstructed as a triangle, and the motif, the red square, looks more like a flag with its white border bent into the red field forming a cross. If there exists a "body" of a peasant woman in Malevich's painting, Ytterstad sees her in an extreme close-up, reduced to just two colors, red and white - the color of flesh, blood and bones.

Another way to look at Malevich's painting is through his interest in aerial photography and aviation. As an aerial landscape the red square could be a stretch of land seen from a plane. From a far distance there definitely could be a peasant woman in the field - if not hundreds or thousands of peasant women. In this respect, cutting and rearranging this landscape mimics an imperialistic logic, transforming the new geometrically boundaries of the field into a radical shape and a new order.

Snorre Ytterstad (b 1969 Bodø) lives and works in Oslo. Recent and upcoming exhibitions include: Volta6, Basel (2010); Sound of Mu, Oslo (2010); Galleri Erik Steen, Oslo (2010); Addendum, UKS, Oslo (2010); De KunstMarkt, Rotterdam (2010); Going to the marked, Henie-Onstad Kunstsenter, Bærum (2009); Tempo som tanke - byrom som skisse, Telemark Kunstnersenter, Skien (2009); New Works, Galleri Erik Steen, Oslo (2009); Hommage á Iver Jåks, vandreutstilling (2008-2010).

The logo for BOSS HUGO BOSS is centered on a solid black rectangular background. The word "BOSS" is written in a large, bold, white, sans-serif font. The letter "O" is followed by two slanted, parallel white lines that resemble a lightning bolt. Below "BOSS", the words "HUGO BOSS" are written in a smaller, white, all-caps, sans-serif font, with wide letter spacing.