

## ESBEN WEILE KJÆR

Esben Weile Kjær (b. 1992, Copenhagen) graduated from the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in 2022, having previously completed his studies in Music Management at the Rhythmic Music Conservatory, Copenhagen. Interested in identity politics in the age of constantly evolving new media, his performance, installation, and stained-glass work examines his generation's construction of selfhood and the rise of popular culture and technology in determining one's experience of community and authenticity. Though the artist lives in Denmark, his practice is heavily informed by "The American Dream." His curiosity is sparked by theme parks, toys-as-branding, and the complete consumerist meltdown in the West.

Kjær has performed at Amant, Brooklyn (2025); Museum Der Moderne, Salzburg (2024); MUMOK, Vienna (2023); Centre Pompidou, Paris (2022); Tinguely Museum, Basel (2022); New Carlsberg Foundation, Copenhagen (2022) and National Gallery of Denmark (2019), amongst others. Solo exhibitions have been held at numerous institutions, including Rønnebæksholm, Næstved (2025); Salzburger Kunstverein, Salzburg (2025); Rudolph Tegnens Museum and Statue Park, Dronningmølle (2025); Kunsten Museum of Modern Art, Aalborg (2024); Albion Jeune, London (2023); Museum of Contemporary Art, Roskilde (2020); Copenhagen Contemporary (2020); and Kunstforening GL Strand, Copenhagen (2020). In 2023, Kjær was invited to curate the ARKEN Museum of Modern Art's permanent collection and to perform *BUTTERFLY!* for which Kjær was awarded the Carl Nielsen & Anne Marie Carl-Nielsens Foundation Talent Award. His work is in the permanent collection of ARKEN Museum of Modern Art, Denmark; Malmö Art Museum, Sweden; and Brandts Museum, Denmark.

## CV

Born in 1992, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Lives and works in Copenhagen, Denmark.

### EDUCATION

2022	The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen, Denmark
2022	Städelschule, Frankfurt am Main, Germany
2015	Rythmic Music Conservatory, Copenhagen, Denmark

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *FOOL*, Albion Jeune, London, UK
- 2025 *FLASH!*, Rønnebæksholm, Næstved, Denmark  
*thousands of small explosions at the same time*, Salzburger Kunstverein, Salzburg, Austria  
*SHELL*, Amant, Brooklyn, NY, USA  
*Rainbow Tornado*, Rudolph Tegner Museum and Statue Park, Dronningmøle, Denmark  
*Lions*, Asiat Park, Vilvoorde, Belgium
- 2024 *Collider*, Museum der Moderne, Salzburg, Austria  
*Collider*, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul, South Korea  
*Milky Way*, Traumabarunkindo, Berlin, Germany  
*Mutation Celebration*, Andersen's Contemporary, Copenhagen, Denmark  
*Solar System*, Kunsten Museum of Modern Art, Aalborg, Denmark
- 2023 *I Want to Believe*, Albion Jeune, London, UK  
*Light Dancer*, Inter.pblc, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2022 *HYPER!*, BFI, Miami, FL, USA  
*Keep it Real*, Magic Stop, Lausanne, Switzerland  
*Complete Collapse*, Andersen's, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2021 *Anxiety of influence* with Yvette Brackman, Four Boxes, Skive, Denmark  
*Hardcore Freedom Revisited*, Zeller von Almstock, Curated By, Vienna, Austria  
*Letters for Julian Luxford*, Kunsthal Aarhus BBC, Frederiksberg, Denmark  
*Letters for Julian Luxford*, Art Sonje Center, Seoul, South Korea  
*Public Drama*, Magasin du Nord, Copenhagen, Denmark  
*Advertise, Hypnotise, Traumatise*, FABRIKKEN, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2020 *Hardcore Freedom*, Copenhagen Contemporary, Copenhagen, Denmark  
*Power Play*, Kunstforeningen GL Strand, Copenhagen, Denmark

*Campaign*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Roskilde, Denmark

2019 *Dance with the devil*, Vestjyllands Art Pavillion, Videbæk, Denmark

2017 *Club Gluttony*, UB ART, Stockholm, Sweden

2016 *How to Neo-tribe?*, Souvenir Official, Berlin, Germany

*You can't fake this monument of movement*, Politkens Forhal, Copenhagen, Denmark

*Radical Togetherness*, Oslo 10, Basel, Switzerland

#### GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025 *Grønningen*, Den Frie, Copenhagen, Denmark

*On Education*, Amant Arts, Brooklyn, NY, USA

*Just Kids*, Gammel Strand, Copenhagen, Denmark

2024 *PERFORM! 2024: Yvonne Rainer. Esben Weile Kjær, TRAUMA. Bendik Giske*, Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin, Germany

Gwanju Biennale, South Korea

2023 Kunsthal Charlottenborg Biennale, Denmark

Public Announcement, Roskilde, Denmark

2022 *Another Surrealism*, Museum of Modern Art, Tønder, Denmark

*Jeg star op med jordens mylder*, Kunstø, Samsø, Denmark

*Another Surrealism*, Den Frie Centre of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, Denmark

*Move*, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

*Bang Bang*, Museum Tinguely, Basel, Switzerland

*Afgang*, Kunsthal Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, Denmark

*The Clown Kingdom*, House of Denmark, Paris, France

2021 *Forever Mall*, Shoot the Lobster, Los Angeles, CA, USA

*MONSTERSUPPE*, KØS Museum of Art in Public Spaces, Køge, Denmark

2020 *Ghost House*, Den Frie Centre of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, Denmark

- 2019 *Wearables*, Etage Projects, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2019 *Window Shopper*, CHART Art Fair, Copenhagen, Denmark
- Mellemting mellem ting*, Den Frie Centre of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, Denmark
- Tending Towards*, Tinos Quarry Platform, Tinos, Greece
- Tending Towards*, Museum of Modern Queer Art, Athens, Greece
- Ulvetime*, Kunsthall Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2018 *Jugend ist Trunkenheit ohne Wein*, Bikini Space, Basel, Switzerland
- Kunsnerness Påskeudstilling 2018*, Kunsthall, Aarhus, Denmark
- 2017 *NO REGRETS of tomorrow's SORROWS*, Future Suburban Contemporary, Copenhagen, Denmark
- Anybody*, Aarhus 2017, Aarhus, Denmark
- LAST MINUTE BUSINESS*, Adult, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2016 *SOMEDAY A REAL RAIN WILL COME AND WASH ALL THE SCUM OFF THE STREETS*, Nordic Contemporary, Paris, France
- Closest Thing to Wearing Nothing*, M.I, Berlin, Germany
- 2015 *Mørkekammer*, Vandrehallen, Hillerød, Denmark

#### PERFORMANCES

- 2024 *Museum Moderne Kunst*, Salzburg, Austria (UPCOMING)
- 2023 *I Want to Believe*, Albion Jeune, London, UK (UPCOMING)
- BURN!*, Mumok, Vienna, Austria
- DE-ESCALATE*, Basel Social Club, Basel, Switzerland
- HYPER!*, CBS, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2022 *The Big Gang Bang Theory* with Maja Malou Lyse, Art in a day, Copenhagen, Denmark
- COLLIDER*, New Carlsberg Foundation, Folkemødet, Bornholm, Denmark

*Night Journeys*, Berghain, Berlin, Germany

*Night Journeys*, Den Frie Centre of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, Denmark

*Sun!*, Voo store, Berlin, Germany

2021

*Departure in affection*, Marienlyst Castle, Elsinore, Denmark

*Entertainment Architecture*, Aarhus School of Architecture, Aarhus, Denmark

The Big Gang Bang Theory, with Maja Malou Lyse, *Another map to Nevada*,

Copenhagen's Waterways, Den Frie Centre of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen,  
Denmark

*BURN!*, Kunsten Museum of Modern Art, Aalborg, Denmark

*BURN!*, Gallery Steinsland Berliner, Stockholm, Sweden

2020

*Pride is temporary*, Gegenwart, Hamburg, Germany

*ALL OVER THE PLACE*, with Emma Rosenzweig, UP CLOSE Performance Festival, Det  
Classenske Bibliotek, New Carlsberg Foundation, Copenhagen, Denmark

2019

*Have you ever been afraid*, Den Frie Centre of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen,  
Denmark

*Have you ever been afraid*, Paris Internationale, Paris, France

*Have you ever been afraid*, Athens Museum of Queer Arts, Athens, Greece

*BURN!*, DR (Danish Broadcasting Corporation), Copenhagen, Denmark

*BURN!*, Copenhagen International Fashion Fair, Copenhagen, Denmark

*BURN!*, SMK (National Gallery of Denmark), Copenhagen, Denmark

*Pride is temporary*, Ashley Berlin, Berlin, Germany

*Pride is temporary*, Vestjyllands Kunstpavillion, Videbæk, Denmark

*Born to be wild*, HC Andersen Festival, Odense, Denmark

2018

*Sun!*, Kunstforeningen GL STRAND, Copenhagen, Denmark

*Sun!*, Code Art Fair, Copenhagen, Denmark

*Sun!*, Kunsthal Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, Denmark

*Sun!*, KBH Litteratur Festival, Skive, Denmark

*We built this city*, KØS Museum of Art in Public Spaces, Køge, Denmark

*We built this city*, Axel Arigato, Copenhagen, Denmark

*Who needs guitars anyway*, with Anne Sofie Madsen, Blake and Vargas, Berlin, Germany

2017 *EVIG!*, with Madeleine Kate McGowan, ARoS Aarhus Art Museum, Aarhus, Denmark

*Level of Glamour*, with Anne Sofie Madsen, The Italian Embassy, Copenhagen, Denmark

*Never have I ever*, Age of Aquarius, Copenhagen, Denmark

*My hear beats faster than techno*, DanseAtelier, Copenhagen, Denmark

2016 *You can't fake this monument of movement*, Copenhagen Contemporary, Copenhagen, Denmark

*How to Neo-tribe?*, Tranen Space for Contemporary Art, Hellerup, Denmark

*I wish I was a punk rocker with flowers in my hair*, Karlin Studios, Prague, Czech Republic

*This could be identification for new subcultures*, Overgaden – Institute for Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, Denmark

*This could be identification for new subcultures*, M.I, Berlin, Germany

*ATHEN*, Den Frie Centre of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, Denmark

2015 *Reality*, Den Frie Centre of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, Denmark

2014 *Birthday Bash*, Nikolaj Kunsthal, Copenhagen, Denmark

#### CURATORIAL WORK

2023 *BUTTERFLY!*, Arken Museum of Modern Art, Ishøj, Denmark

2018 *Alt\_Cph – Over-existing*, with Anna Weile Kjær, FABRIKKEN for Kunst og Design, Copenhagen, Denmark

2017 *Institut for Success 2*, with Mira Winding, Dina Friemuth, Anna Weile Kjær, Jeppe Ugelvig, Maja Malou Lyse, and Anne Sofie Madsen, SMK (National Gallery of Denmark), Copenhagen, Denmark

2016 *Institut for Success 1, Kunstforeninger GL STRAND, Copenhagen, Denmark*

AWARDS

2022 Carl Nielsen & Anne Marie Carl-Nielsen's Foundation Talent Award

PERMANENT COLLECTIONS

Arken Museum of Modern Art, Ishøj, Denmark

Brandts Museum, Odense, Denmark

Malmø Kunstmuseum, Malmø, Sweden

FILM FESTIVALS

2021 *Industries of freedom, with Freja Sofie Kirk, CPH\_DOX, Copenhagen, Denmark*

*Industries of freedom, with Freja Sofie Kirk, Rencontres Internationales Paris & Berlin*