

Christian John Munks

Verdens sidste aften

20 March — 18 April 2026

OTP Copenhagen is pleased to present *Verdens sidste aften* by Christian John Munks, the first solo exhibition dedicated to the artist's work.

The exhibition features a series of psychologically-charged paintings, sparsely distributed throughout the gallery. The figures depicted appear like characters in a 'Kammerspiel' or chamber play - a potent but minimal form of drama designed for small spaces, limited cast, minimal scenography and often with a focus on complex emotional dynamics. A subtle field of tension emerges between these figures, shaped by an interplay of anxiety and intimacy - hinting at a narrative that is kept deliberately ambiguous. It feels as if something just happened but that we have arrived too late to witness it. As viewers we are left with a scene that has been interrupted.

Munks' approach to representation combines drawing from life with references to photographs, film stills and other sources of fiction and distortion. Attention in these paintings is largely focused towards facial expressions and hand gestures, although sections of patterned fabric also play an important role - often providing a protective or concealing layer. With extraneous objects and scenery stripped out, what emerges in its place is a unique emphasis on expression, on surface, and on that which lies beneath.

Pentimento is fundamental to the artist's work. The ghosts of previous compositions, buried beneath the uppermost surface, all contribute to the enigmatic effect that these images achieve. In this respect what feels most important is that the paintings foster a certain atmosphere, rather than offering a complete depiction. The dominant impression is one of a looming breakdown or collapse. A latent sense of personal or social crisis always hovering out of sight, underpinning the motifs like a shared scaffolding or skeleton structure.

The tension between what is shown and that which remains partially obscured is embodied in the exhibition's titular work. An arm emerges from beneath a mass of tangled bed clothes, vaguely warm and muddled, as if the linens have been occupied for some time. Hidden, the figure appears to have withdrawn from the world - their extended hand becoming the proxy for their internal state. Many of the other works in the exhibition adopt the same logic: painted hands (or faces) become both subject and medium, offering partial information about these individuals, the broader context they exist within, and the artist's relation to them, but never a full disclosure.

Christian John Munks (b. 1985) lives and works in Copenhagen, Denmark. The artist attended the Funen Art Academy, having previously studied Film Studies at Lund University. Recent exhibitions include: *Haystacks* at New York Life Gallery (New York, NY; US), *The Historian* at OTP Copenhagen (Copenhagen; DK), *Stirring Stills* at Minor Gallery (Copenhagen; DK), *Scotopia* at CABIN (New York, NY; US) and *Silvers in the Void* at MAMOTH (London; UK).