

JOHAN GUSTAVSSON

Fragment of an essay by Hans Theys, published in the book Drawings, Tornado Editions, Brussels 2012. In Gustavsson's drawings we seem to meet families or small groups of friends that have become petrified icons of a fleeting world. Clocks have stopped ticking, or endlessly gnaw at us with their noisy grinding of unrealised moments of intimacy. Beautiful, asymmetrical compositions. Beautifully arrested drawings, with hesitating or sturdy, sometimes slowly disappearing lines, with clear shapes that suddenly become indistinct or messed up, with funny color patches, with teapots with juvenile spouts, with depictions of tiny hammers and thin faucets, with sockets connecting us to the outside world, with one-legged tables, miserable Christmas trees and dreamlike summer cottages, with strangely silent protagonists. Very often these protagonists are smoking cigarettes. Smoke is a funny object to draw, especially where it's supposed to disappear, but it's also a signal of youthful rebellion, boredom and pleasure seeking, giving oneself an attitude or slowly killing oneself. Apart from this, one might imagine an artist creating the most fabulous forms with his or her cigarette smoke, seeing the most fantastic scenes in its vortexes and sways, evoking Arabian nights, thundering ghosts or spiritual encounters. What prevails, however, is a feeling to be in the presence of a human being who went through stuff and reports about it, realising that a poetic evocation of failure can be a success. One feels a sense of relief. One smiles. Sometimes one laughs. If understatement can be hilarious, it sometimes does so in these drawings. We meet a dandy who elegantly stages awkwardness. We enter a world of sordid dreams, and are glad we escaped. We encounter art in its basic form: relating about experience, but doing so through the physical presence of an object. Because finally we have to admit that what really unsettles us are the drawings, and not the depicted scenes. Nothing is expressed here, as Moore coined it, we are just confronted with the strangest of artifacts, created by a man who escaped life and hovers over it like an all-seeing ghost. Fragment of an essay by Hans Theys, published in the book Drawings, Tornado Editions, Brussels 2012.

WEBSITES

www.johangustavsson.nl

SOCIAL MEDIA

[@elvisgustavsson](https://www.instagram.com/elvisgustavsson)

www.facebook.com/johan.gustavsson.50159

MAAKT DEEL UIT VAN KUNSTENAARSINITIATIEF / COLLECTIEF / BROEDPLAATS

www.1646.nl

PLATFORM

www.alternativeartguide.com

LID VAN BEROEPS- / KUNSTENAARSVERENIGING

IKT international association of curators of contemporary art

OPLEIDINGEN

2012 - Fine Arts Amsterdam, Sandberg
1013 Instituut

2000 - 3D Den Haag, Koninklijke Academie

TENTOONSTELLINGEN

2021 Juxtapose Art Fair Aarhus, Denemarken
www.juxtaposeartfair.com/
Groep

2004	van Beeldende Kunsten Diploma behaald	2020	Inochutvandrarna Gallery 70 Triana Online exhibition gallery70.art/ Duo
1999 - 2000	Nordisk konst Ålands folkhogskola Diploma behaald	2017	Kleurplaten Billytown Den Haag, Nederland www.billytown.nl Groep
1998 - 1999	Allman konst Nyckelviksskolan Diploma behaald	2017	Supermarket Art Fair Stockholm, Zweden Groep
		2016	Drawing Front (and back), Quartair Den Haag, Nederland www.quartair.nl/ Groep
		2016	Abracadabra. Politics of collaboration Bar Barbara Wroclaw, Polen Groep
		2016	"BUI. Grumolls de cultura contemporània", Museu de la Mediterrànea Torroella de Montgrí, Spanje Groep
		2016	Vers bloed Haagse Kunstkring Den Haag, Nederland Groep
		2015	Tique Gallery Antwerp, België www.tique.art/space/exhibitions/johan-gustavsson-thomas-vandenberghe/ Duo
		2014	Where are we now? Marrakech Biennial Marrakech, Marokko Satellite project by The Naked Groep
		2013	VN Gallery Zagreb, Croatia Solo
		2012	AMUM Memphis, USA Solo
		2010	Barbara Seiler Galerie Zurich. Zwitserland Groep
		2009	Lief hertje & het grote witte reus Den Haag, The Netherlands Solo
		2008	NEST Den Haag, The Netherlands Groep
		2008	WE LEFT THE WARM STABLE AND ENTERED THE LATEX VOID Montreal, Canada Solo

- 2007 Kakelhallen Åland, Finland
Solo
- 2006 Museum De L'empord'a Figueras, Spain
Groep
- 2005 STROOM Den Haag, The Netherlands
Groep
- 2005 Start GEM, Museum voor actuele kunst Den Haag, The Netherlands
Groep

PROJECTEN

- 2011 Art Amsterdam Amsterdam, Nederland
Fair
- 2010 Stockholm, Sweden Supermarket Art fair Supermarket Art Fair, Stockholm, Sweden, Zweden Fair
- 2010 representerd by: Lief hertje & het grote witte reus Art Amsterdam Art Amsterdam, Nederland Fair
- 2008 Cascoland, Durban Cascoland Durban, Zuid-Afrika cascoland.com/#/ Project
- 2007 Cascoland, Johannesburg Cascoland Johannesburg cascoland.com/#/ Project

INTERNATIONALE UITWISSELINGEN / ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCIES

- 2010 Residency at Labor, Budapest Budapest, Hongarije labor.c3.hu/informacio/

PUBLICATIES

- 2013 DH/// Stroom Den Haag Magazine
- 2012 Johan Gustavsson DRAWINGS Tornado Publishers Hans Theys
www.tique.art/store/product/publications/books/johan-gustavsson-drawings/ Book
- 2010 DH// Stroom Den Haag Magazine
- 2009 Houtskool Houtskool, Holland Magazine
- 2008 Fragmented editions Fragmented editions, France Magazine
- 2008 DH/ Stroom Den Haag Magazine
- 2007 Is a (Star) L'IMPRIMANTE: Book's and

PRIJZEN EN STIPENDIA

- 2009 Stroom Invest
- 2006 Stroom Invest
- 2005 Stroom Individuele Subsidie

Stuff, France Kunstenaarsboek

2007 Pocketsized Pocketsized, England
Kunstenaarsboek

ARTISTIEKE NEVENACTIVITEITEN

2020 - Curator of Prospects at Art Rotterdam
2022 Loopt nog

2017 - Initiator and board member:
2019 www.thehaguecontemporary.nl

2017 - -- Head of the board: www.page-not-found.nl Loopt nog

2011 - -- Initiator and board member:
www.alternativeartguide.nl Loopt nog

2008 - Cultural Ambassador for Den Haag
2008

2006 - -- Docent at the Royal Academy of The
Hague Loopt nog

2004 - -- Curator/ Co-director at 1646,
www.1646.nl Loopt nog



Family series 33, 2020
Tekening, 70x50cm



Family series 32, 2020
Tekening, 70x50cm



Family series 31, 2020
Tekening, 70x50cm



Family series 30, 2020
Tekening, 70x50cm



Family series 29, 2020
Tekening, 70x50cm



Red aura, 2016
Sculptuur



Family series 28, 2011
Tekening, 40x50



Family series 17, 2011
Tekening, 50x70



Family series 12, 2010
Tekening, 50x70



Family series 02, 2010
Tekening, 50x70