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Lotta Hannerz: *oblikt* April 5 - May 11 2014

Lotta Hannerz born 1968 in Stockholm lives and works in Paris. Hannerz has attended the University College of Arts, Crafts and Design and the Royal Institute of Art in Stockholm. She graduated in 2002. In the beginning of the 2000s Hannerz made several water sculptures, which have been on display in various locations, such as in the water outside the Royal Palace in Stockholm. Hannerz has participated in a number of exhibitions in Sweden and abroad, for example at Nationalmuseum, Stockholm and the Luxembourg Gardens in Paris.

Hannerz works make part of several collections such as Modera Museet, Göteborg Art Museum, Malmö Art Museum and Kunstmuseum Bonn.

Lars Axel Söderberg on Lotta Hannerz:

Andy Warhol once said, "Nobody really looks at anything; it's too hard." I think he solved this problem by making a movie that constantly showed the same view of the Empire State Building, forcing the audience to sit staring at the same building for more than eight hours!

"Surely nothing has to listen to so many stupid remarks as a painting in a museum," alleged the Goncourt brothers. Perhaps this is true not only of what is said but of what is written about art. As an artist, I have often heard from colleagues how art critics don't see what they are doing but instead write that their works remind them of some other artist's work, or simply repeat what someone else already wrote about their art. However, in these financially difficult times for the newspaper industry, art criticism tends to be reduced to verdicts in the form of one to six dots, which, ironically, gives the impression of a random throw of dice.

I would nevertheless like to emphasise that I do not believe that artists are better judges of art than anyone else. In my experience, most artists don't actually care much for other people's art. Furthermore, many of the good artists I know are uninterested in the very concept of art.

One thing I feel safe in saying about the artist Lotta Hannerz, however, concerns not the artistic form but the actual contents of her works. Unlike, say, Auguste Renoir, who painted his sensual women over and over again, some artists have a pronounced antipathy to repeating themselves. I myself am one of them. Everything we do is a

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portrayal of something we want to express once and for all. Lotta Hannerz, I believe, belongs to this group.

Bearing in mind what the Goncourt brothers said, I will limit myself to what is indisputable in Lotta Hannerz's oeuvre. She has embarked on a series of expansions in the field of art, for instance her water sculptures, where she has solved the problem of creating movement in art by anchoring her objects in the undercurrents that make them move; she has created a collapsible sculpture that can be tucked into a small case; she has made two-dimensional sculptures, she has utilised our habitual way of seeing perspective to conjure up virtual rooms with a cut-out method; she has invented something she calls polyview - i.e., three double-sided tall pictures that describe a spatial relationship that sets the viewer's head spinning - and she has used a technique for three-dimensional drawing with metal thread, and so on. Moreover, she has made drawings under hypnosis, revealing that there is an antagonistic relationship between the right and left halves of the brain!

But, as Paul Valéry once wrote: "An exclusive preference for all that is new and only new indicates a deterioration of critical discernment, for nothing could be easier than to discern the 'novelty' of a work." However, we could add to this George Christopher Lichtenberg's observation: "One has to do something new in order to see something new."

I could also add that it seems to me that Hannerz often visualises the duality of many of our notions. Her works may appear realistic, but many of them seem to contradict this, which she now and then emphasises by using, for instance, trompe-l'oeil technique to remind us of the deceptiveness of some of our perceptions. It appears to me... I experience many of her works differently depending on the day. A one or a bull's eye are just two aspects of a throw of the dice. Just look at her sculpture "21 degrees".

Here, I cautiously pause to quote Lotta Hannerz herself: "I would prefer you to see rather than read." Thus, I end my writing by recommending you to fulfil her request.

Lars Axel Söderberg