

ESPACE MURAILLE

Presents

*It takes two*

A monographic exhibition of Swedish artist Andreas Eriksson

Curated by Laurence Dreyfus

Exhibition from January, 26 to April, 15 2023



*Semaphore Schiefergrau, 2019*

**Espace Muraille** dedicates a monographic exhibition to the Swedish artist **Andreas Eriksson**, curated by **Laurence Dreyfus**.

The work of Andreas Eriksson is centered on a finely honed dialogue with nature, informed by his home and studio in the Swedish countryside and its surroundings. He creates images that are both formally refined and emotionally evocative, balancing figuration and abstraction in an attempt to introspectively, poetically capture the fleeting phenomena of his environments.

Andreas Eriksson has designed the "It takes two" exhibition especially for Espace Muraille with a brand-new series of works dedicated to the night: "**Night Painting**", which incorporates a museum-sized painting. Ranging from bronze sculptures to prints, textiles and paintings, his works take many forms: While those in small formats bring to light finer details of his practice, his large compositions become landscapes in and of themselves.

*"Night fascinates me by its ability to almost suspend time and trap light; night is both disturbing and captivating."*

**Andreas Eriksson**

### **A poetic window on nature**

The emotional intensity of Eriksson's work is the result of a sustained exploration of his response to the natural world. In the late 1990s, while living in Berlin, the artist began to suffer from electromagnetic hypersensitivity and was forced to move away from the city, the densely populated areas and the electromagnetic fields of urban life.

Since 2000 the artist has lived in a house situated in a forest on the edge of a lake. Small events and phenomena from his everyday life and the surrounding landscape give his formal and conceptual decision-making process a firm context. Eriksson's work often embraces dualities such as inside and outside, lightness and heaviness, illusion and reality. His works oscillate enigmatically between the abstract and the figurative and are both familiar and mysterious.

### **A dedicated exhibition for Espace Muraille**

The exhibition "It takes two" will feature the artist's historic sculptures:

*A Second Time* (2003-2007) - a work representative of Eriksson's engagement with nature. It originates with a tree that the artist sawed into small segments. With each cut, he would take precise notes as to the parts' original locations and orientations. He then halved these sections, using them to create two new trees - clones of the originals whose individuality bears witness to the resilience of nature and the subjectivity of reception. This work was exhibited at the 30th São Paulo Biennial in 2012 and, in 2008, at Mumok, the Museum of Modern Art in the city of Vienna.

These interventions into worldly processes are continued with Eriksson's *Molehills* (2009 - ongoing): cast-bronze molehills suggesting a complex, subterranean system of tunnels that remain hidden from sight. The sculptures are juxtaposed with a new painting that enters into dialogue with the space's architecture by means of its monumental format, and is one of the artist's largest paintings to date. Dark in tonality, the over nine-meter-long canvas draws influence from the dynamics of shadow and light under the cover of night.



*A Second Time, 2003-2007*

An adjoining space features the painting *Semaphore Schiefergrau* (2019), his new print *Selfjöt* (2022) and the wall carpet *Södra Ström III* (2021). The painted work is part of the artist's *Semaphore* series, the title of which refers to a rudimentary system of railway signals consisting of movable signs. Despite being increasingly phased out in favor of colored electric lights, semaphores remain in use in Sweden, and are particularly frequent in small towns similar to where Eriksson lives and works.

*Texture mapping* (2014 - 2019) is a 45-part work that serves as the conclusion to the exhibition, providing a close look into Eriksson's practice and acting as a concise summary of his artistic approaches. Its parts, dubbed *Cutouts*, are excerpts from larger paintings that were cut out from their original compositions before the remainders were discarded. For Espace Muraille, the artist devised a procession of 45 individual *Cutouts* that act as a guide for the viewer as they navigate the length of the work.



*Texture Mapping, 2014-2019*

Andreas Eriksson draws on the raw, natural landscape of his native Lidköping in southwestern Sweden to paint abstract, even metaphysical motifs. In his new series of works, *Night Painting*, Andreas Eriksson paints depictions of abstract, unidentified, and often dreamlike places, in which the permanent is often confronted with the ephemeral. Andreas Eriksson's silent and meditative paintings inspire calm and serenity, they act with their quasi-salvific power in these agitated times.

## ANDREAS ERIKSSON



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Andreas Eriksson was born in 1975 in Björsäter, Sweden.

His work was exhibited at the 30th São Paulo Biennial, São Paulo (2012) and The Nordic Pavilion, 54<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale in 2011. A major solo presentation of Eriksson's work opened at Skissernas Museum, Lund in June 2021. The artist had an exhibition of watercolours, drawings and tapestries at Nordic Watercolour Museum, Tjörn in September 2020. Eriksson was commissioned to create a public painting for the main entrance of New Karolinska Hospital in Stockholm in 2017.

Other notable solo exhibitions include: 'Andreas Eriksson', Artspace de 11 Linjen Griet Dupont Foundation, Oudenburg, Belgium (2021); 'Cutouts, Mistakes and Threads', Braunsfelder Family Collection, Cologne, Germany (2019); 'Work in Progress', Skissernas Museum, Lund, Sweden (2017); 'Roundabouts', Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden which toured to Trondheim Kunstmuseum, Trondheim, Norway; Centre PasquArt, Biel, Switzerland and Reykjavik Art Museum, Reykjavik, Iceland (2014–2015). 'Roundabout the hardship of believing' and 'Walking the Dog, Lying on the Sofa,' MUMOK, Vienna, Austria (2008).

Eriksson's works are included in prominent collections internationally including Centre Pompidou, Paris, France; FRAC, Auvergne, France; MUMOK, Vienna, Austria; Nasjonalmuseet, Oslo, Norway; Gothenburg Museum of Art, Gothenberg, Sweden; Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden; Skövde Art Museum, Skövde, Sweden; National Public Art Council, Sweden; Sundsvall Museum, Sundsvall, Sweden; Uppsala Art Museum, Uppsala, Sweden and X Museum, Beijing, China.

## **ESPACE MURAILLE**

Espace Muraille is a unique exhibition space dedicated to contemporary art, born out of the collectors and art sponsors Caroline and Eric Freymond's desire to share their passion for contemporary art and artists to as wide an audience as possible. Their vision is based on enabling large numbers of visitors to discover artworks that are rarely seen in public. Temporary exhibitions, artists' projects and displays of works from great private collections are displayed over two floors and 275 sq. metres.

The space, based in the heart of the old part of Geneva and steeped in history, has been completely re-thought and redesigned by its artistic director Caroline Freymond in order to welcome ambitious exhibitions, including solo shows by major international artists.

After the major exhibitions dedicated to Monique Frydman (2015), Tomàs Saraceno (2015), Shirazeh Houshiary (2016), Sheila Hicks (2016), Edmund de Waal (2017) and Olafur Eliasson (2018), Espace Muraille gave carte blanche in 2019 to the Israeli artist Michal Rovner for his first exhibition in Switzerland, to Arik Levy in 2020, to the painter Roger de Montebello and the visual artist Eamon Ore-Giron in 2021 and presented in 2022 the rare contemporary objects of the collective Lignereux and an exhibition of visual artist and director Robert Wilson.

## **LAURENCE DREYFUS**

Laurence Dreyfus is an exhibition curator and art advisor. With her company LDAC created in 2000, she advises institutions, companies and private collections in their approach to contemporary art.

She travels the international art markets in search of contemporary art and modern masterpieces, which she presents each year in the course of the editions of Chambres à Part during the art week in Paris. She has organized several exhibitions in France and abroad in prestigious venues such as the Museum of Contemporary Art in Lyon for the Lyon Biennial in 2001, the Palais de Tokyo in 2002 and La maison rouge in 2004. She also worked for the Lincoln Center in New York in 2008, the city of Geneva and the Caixa bank in Barcelona in 2006 and the Parasol unit in London in 2007.

Since 2008, she has initiated several artistic commission projects, notably for the Cerruti brand at Place de la Madeleine, or in situ projects for a major Champagne wine house. Between 2007 and 2015, LDAC's consulting activity focused on private collections. Since 2015, she has orchestrated several large-scale exhibitions as curator for Espace Muraille, such as those dedicated to Monique Frydman, Shirazeh Houshiari, Edmund de Wall, Olafur Eliasson, Tomas Saraceno, Michal Rovner and in January 2023 to Andreas Eriksson.



## PRATICAL INFORMATION

Exhibition *It takes two*

Andreas Eriksson

January 26 to April 15, 2022

Opening times: Tuesdays to Fridays from 10am to midday and 1pm to 6pm

Saturdays from 1 pm to 6pm

or by appointment

Espace Muraille, Place des Casemates 5, 1204 Genève

[www.espacemuraille.com](http://www.espacemuraille.com)

## MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION CONTACT

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