



MORE THAN LIFE!

The Collector's Eye series presents Lars Göran Johnsson

12/02 – 30/05 2010 Entrance hall / Hall

Preview brunch for the media on Thursday, 11 February, from 10 am to 2 pm.

An open information meeting for the public will be held on Friday, 12 February, at 12 noon,

The opening of the exhibition will be on Friday, 12 February, at 6 pm. Welcome!

Continuing the *Collector's Eye* exhibition series in Pori Art Museum, *More Than Life!* presents work from the art collection of *Lars Johnsson*. The exhibition opens up perspectives on the tradition of Finnish and Scandinavian modernism and the field of contemporary art.

Lars Johnsson's Collection is characterised by a strong personal and intellectual approach, sometimes tinged with powerful emotions. The collector's eye traces in subtle ways a terrain at the core of which lie Nordic constructivist abstraction and the tradition of colour painting.

The concretist compositions of artists such as *Olle Bærtling* or *Birger Carlstedt* that are based on a delicate division of the abstract pictorial plane, or those of *Matti Kujasalo* based on the application of a systematic approach, find a counterpoint in the material-aesthetic sensibilities of *Jukka Mäkelä*, *Georg Gudni*, *Annette Senneby* and *Jon Arne Mogstad*, who all infuse their work with allusions to nature and romanticism. The sculptures of *Bård Breivik* and *Sigurdur Gudmundsson* are intimate articulations of the processes between nature and culture, the organic and the sculpted. The two extremes of the exhibition are defined by the classic genre paintings of the Finnish artist *Magnus von Wright* and the poetic sculpture of *Anthony Caro*.

The optical abstractions of *Josef Albers* and *Victor Vasarely* are today classics of contemporary art. American art of the post-1960s period is represented by *Frank Stella* and *Helen Frankenthaler* – not to forget the works of *John Cage* who was closely associated with the birth of the *Fluxus* movement.

An interesting contrast to the restrained constructivist and aesthetic feel of the collection is provided by the exuberant and grotesque approach of young Finnish male painters who began to interest Lars Johnsson in the early 2000s. *Samppa Törmälehto* uses neo-expressionist strategies to deconstruct the human figure, a motif inherited from the 1980s. *Jukka Korkeila*, *Janne Räisänen* and *Jyrki Riekkö* work on the pictorial surface by splitting the image into countless fragments, a riotous procession of figurative as well as non-figurative elements, a quagmire of quotations distilled from popular culture.

The present moment in art is represented also by *Timo Vaittinen* whose heterogeneous paintings – collages of psychedelic colours and references that resemble mosaics – are inspired by the overflow of images in the media of this age. Whereas the works of *Kari Cavén* and *Vesa-Pekka Rannikko* explore the interrelations between object, image and its support, as well as between the place and the manner of presentation – the area bounded by the frame – the narrative object works of *Juhani Harri* represent a kind of double gesture, framed collecting.