

Some information on this page is only available in Dutch

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

MEMBER OF ARTISTS' INITIATIVE/COLLECTIVE/INCUBATOR

www.1646.nl

PLATFORM

www.alternativeartguide.com

MEMBER OF A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION/ARTISTS' ASSOCIATION

IKT international association of curators of contemporary art

EDUCATION

2012 - Fine Arts Amsterdam, Sandberg Instituut
1013

2000 - 3D Den Haag, Koninklijke Academie van
2004 Beeldende Kunsten diploma

1999 - Nordisk konst Ålands folkhogskola diploma
2000

1998 - Allman konst Nyckelviksskolan diploma
1999

EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 Juxtapose Art Fair Aarhus, Denmark
www.juxtaposeartfair.com/
Group
- 2020 Inochutvandrarna Gallery 70 Triana Online
exhibition gallery70.art/
Duo
- 2017 Kleurplaten Billytown The Hague,
Netherlands www.billytown.nl
Group
- 2017 Supermarket Art Fair Stockholm, Sweden
Group
- 2016 Drawing Front (and back), Quartair The
Hague, Netherlands www.quartair.nl/
Group
- 2016 Abracadabra. Politics of collaboration Bar
Barbara Wroclaw, Poland
Group
- 2016 "BUI. Grumolls de cultura
contemporània", Museu de la
Mediterrànea Torroella de Montgrí, Spain
Group
- 2016 Vers bloed Haagse Kunstkring The Hague,
Netherlands
Group
- 2015 Tique Gallery Antwerp, Belgium
[www.tique.art/space/exhibitions/johan-
gustavsson-thomas-vandenbergh/](http://www.tique.art/space/exhibitions/johan-gustavsson-thomas-vandenbergh/)
Duo
- 2014 Where are we now? Marrakech Biennial
Marrakech, Morocco Satellite project by
The Naked
Group
- 2013 VN Gallery Zagreb, Croatia
Solo
- 2012 AMUM Memphis, USA
Solo
- 2010 Barbara Seiler Galerie Zurich. Zwitterland

PROJECTS

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

Group

- 2009 Lief hertje & het grote witte reus Den Haag, The Netherlands
[Solo](#)
- 2008 NEST Den Haag, The Netherlands
[Group](#)
- 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
[Group](#)
- 2005 STROOM Den Haag, The Netherlands
[Group](#)
- 2005 Start GEM, Museum voor actuele kunst Den Haag, The Netherlands
[Group](#)

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES/RESIDENCIES

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

PUBLICATIONS

- 2013 DH/// Stroom Den Haag Magazine
- 2012 Johan Gustavsson DRAWINGS Tornado Publishers Hans Theys
www.tique.art/store/product/publications/books/johngustavsson-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 Stuff, France Kunstenaarsboek
- 2007 Pocketsized Pocketsized, England Kunstenaarsboek

AWARDS AND GRANTS

- 2009 Stroom Invest

SECONDARY ART-RELATED ACTIVITIES

- 2020 - 2022 Curator of Prospects at Art Rotterdam On-going

2006 Stroom Invest

2005 Stroom Individuele Subsidie

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

2017 - -- Head of the board: www.page-not-found.nl
On-going

2011 - -- Initiator and board member:
www.alternativeartguide.nl On-going

2008 - Cultural Ambassador for Den Haag
2008

2006 - -- Docent at the Royal Academy of The Hague
On-going

2004 - -- Curator/ Co-Director at 1646,
www.1646.nl On-going



Family series 33, 2020
Drawing, 70x50cm



Family series 32, 2020
Drawing, 70x50cm



Family series 31, 2020
Drawing, 70x50cm



Family series 30, 2020
Drawing, 70x50cm



Family series 29, 2020
Drawing, 70x50cm



Red aura, 2016
Sculpture



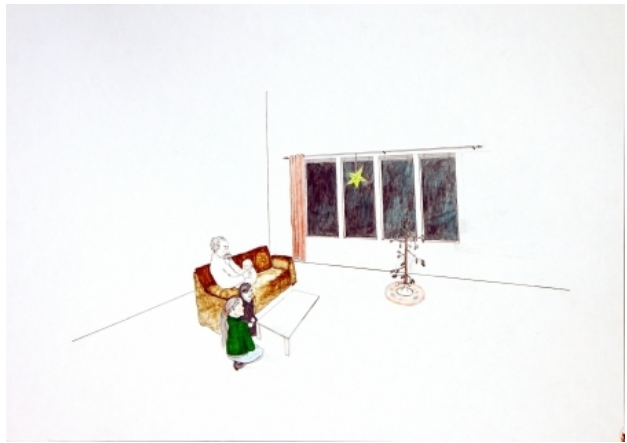
Family series 28, 2011
Drawing, 40x50



Family series 17, 2011
Drawing, 50x70



Family series 12, 2010
Drawing, 50x70



Family series 02, 2010
Drawing, 50x70