

ORDRUPGAARD

PRESS RELEASE

1 April 2025

Exhibition dates
11 April – 19 October 2025

Press meeting
10 April 4-5pm



DJURBERG & BERG. THE CIRCLE OF LIFE

11 APRIL – 19 OCTOBER 2025

ORDRUPGAARD
VILVORDEVEJ 110
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'The banana has been used in art many times, but we do not cite any of them directly. We just let the form be, as it is; open, silly, erect, peeled, vulnerable and joyful.' – **Djurberg & Berg.**

Mingling mischievous humour and subtle seriousness the internationally acclaimed artist duo Djurberg & Berg takes over Ordrupgaard's greenhouse with an immersive installation that will be on show throughout the summer. Nathalie Djurberg and Hans Berg are known for their experimental and often provocative works that combine installation, sound and animation. *The Circle of Life* represents a gigantic freestanding banana skin positioned in exactly the same spot where the founding couple had once placed a large banana palm. This is a reinterpretation of the original function of the space, which was that of a greenhouse, while at the same time visualising the eternal cycle of existence in a sculptural installation accompanied by soundscapes.

Over the past 20 years the Swedish artist duo Nathalie Djurberg and Hans Berg have achieved wide recognition exhibiting in museums around the world. The human condition is a common thread running through their grotesque and sometimes nightmarish installations, where surreal and bizarre elements appear in science-fiction-like settings imbued with black irony.

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THE CIRCLE OF LIFE

The installation *The Circle of Life* shows the skin of an opened banana rising monumentally in space. Beneath the skin we can just make out the banana itself, half-buried in the ground. Associations with conception, decay and re-birth are obvious as a musical soundtrack emphasises the sculpture's shifting rhythms of upright lines and sweeping curves.

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'The banana is symbolically loaded and open to many interpretations; at once sexually stimulating and mundanely banal. The banana skin, unfolded like a flower and pointing upwards, is both ridiculous and strangely intimate, like an erotic act unsure of whether it is sacred or absurd. We are deliberately playing with this state of tension.' – **Djurberg & Berg.**

DJURBERG & BERG

The artist duo lives and works in Sweden. Nathalie Djurberg was born in Lysekil, Sweden, in 1978 and graduated from Malmö Art Academy in 2002. Hans Berg was born in Rättvik, Sweden, in 1978. He is a musician, producer and composer and works mainly with electronic music. In their installations, the boundaries between the cinematic, the sculptural and the performative are blurred in integrated environments of sculpture, moving images and musical compositions.

THE GREENHOUSE EXHIBITIONS

Each year during the summer season, as part of this exhibition series, Ordrupgaard invites a contemporary artist to create a site-specific, climate-focused work for the greenhouse in the Art Park. The first exhibition in the series took place in 2023 with the participation of Veronica Hodges, and in 2024 the exhibiting artist was Rune Bosse.

The exhibition series is made possible thanks to a thorough renovation of the 1921 greenhouse, which was funded by the Villum Foundation. The greenhouse now occupies its original location in the orchard in the eastern part of the park, close to Finn Juhl's House.

The exhibition is supported by:

Dansk Tennis Fond
Ernst B. Sund Fonden
Inge og Asker Larsens Fond til støtte af almennyttige formål
The New Carlsberg Foundation
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15. Juni Fonden

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