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Ransve

Drawings 1961-2005

Stein Jorgensen

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- Decorative slipcase
- Over 1400 illustrations

The Norwegian painter Bjørn Ransve (b. 1944) is one of the best-known contemporary Scandinavian artists. Very few painters indeed express themselves so brilliantly in two dimensions on a sheet of paper, thematically, technically and formally. His work is a dialog that embraces art history enthusiastically, one that is deeply rooted in art history yet articulates something new and relevant to our times. While still a student, he began to do figurative drawings, switching to abstraction before ultimately returning to the figurative although he never returns to precisely where he left off. Instead he is continually blending in new elements he has seen and recognized along the way. Consequently, his most recent work represents a sophisticated synthesis of elements from worlds which at first might seem virtually irreconcilable.

This volume presents Bjørn Ransve's drawings from all periods of his work. In themselves they provide a survey of his oeuvre as a whole since drawings always accompany his paintings and prints – not merely as sketches or designs but as autonomous works of art in their own right, with both familiar and unfamiliar motifs and techniques. Moreover, the book provides a comprehensive text on Bjørn Ransve's drawings, with the various groups of motifs studied in detail – when they appear and in what sequence and how they comment on each other – and fits them into the art historical context. The first presentation and a superlative representation of the drawings by the best-known contemporary Norwegian artist. Bjørn Ransve's work is on the brink of being discovered internationally. With his delicate yet powerful drawings, Bjørn Ransve leaves us with fascinating and disturbing impressions of aspects of perception and the phenomenon itself.

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