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# Kenneth Blom: Theater of Operations

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**Press Release**

Born in 1967 in Roskilde, Denmark, Kenneth Blom moved to Norway as a child. He studied at the Statens Kunstakademi in Oslo (1990-1994), as well as at the Düsseldorf Academy of Fine Arts (1994-1995). While in Düsseldorf artists such as Dan Flavin and Joseph Beuys inspired his work, and as a result, his painting became increasingly minimalistic. In fact for a period, he abandoned the paintbrush in favor of the airbrush and started to paint on aluminum in order to enhance the coolness and machine-like qualities in his treatment of the picture surface.

The paintings of Kenneth Blom employ a unique blend of architectural and figurative elements. His gestures are restrained and his spaces are intentionally vast, creating an overt sense of symbolism. While Blom's figures often seem to merge with their surroundings, they also appear forlorn and unfulfilled in the context of the world at large.

The audience follows the artist's footsteps through abstracted details, colorist investigations and tableaux from both the public and private sphere.

Through aesthetically processed and experimental reasoning, the answers emerge. Along the way one may observe a repertoire constantly expanding in terms of both color and composition.

Both his figurative works and his landscapes seem to explore the melancholy that has been such a preoccupation of Norwegian artists through the ages.

He has shown extensively in Europe, including as a featured artist at Sotheby's New Bond Street in London, major exhibition at Norway's premier museum, the Henie Onstad Kunstsenter in Norway, group exhibitions at Oslo's Astrup Fearnley Museum, and regularly at Jason McCoy Gallery in New York. He is the subject of the documentary *Forventninger/Anticipation*, a film by Tommy Normann, currently in production. Blom lives and works in Oslo.

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