

On September 30, the Astrup Fearnley Museet will open an exhibition by American artist Rachel Harrison, her largest in Scandinavia to date. Spanning mediums that include sculpture, drawing, photography, and painting, *Sitting in a Room* has an emphasis on recent practice.

Harrison's nimble, layered method of artmaking escapes easy categorization. Abstraction is shot through with vernacular reference to jarring, often comic effect, as formalist concerns are forced to vie with rogue elements from the outside world. Cultural tokens, the history of art, and space itself come in for new scrutiny, leveling hierarchies through a democratizing process of sifting and accumulation. Overruling distinctions between sculpture and base, Harrison has often made packing crates or stray cardboard boxes the material of her constructions; co-opting the very modes of conveyance used to ship and store the commercial goods that populate her work.

That alertness to art's surrounding conditions is also evident in Harrison's room-scaled approach to this exhibition, which takes its name from a 1969 work of sound art, *I Am Sitting in a Room* by Alvin Lucier. The five galleries allotted have each been conceived by the artist as distinct rooms—Sculpture Court, Town Square, Gym, Living Room, and Cabinet—and works are configured to place the viewer in contexts both intimate and public. Setting in its various guises is explored throughout the exhibition, which Harrison describes as neither a survey nor a retrospective, but rather an intuitive remapping of her latest work's conceptual coordinates.

Curated by Solveig Øvstebø.

In conjunction with the exhibition, the Astrup Fearnley Museet will publish an extensive catalog with texts by Negar Azimi, Anne Dressen, Lars Bang Larsen, and Solveig Øvstebø. Scheduled for release at the end of the exhibition period, this thoroughly illustrated publication will include both installation views of *Sitting in a Room* and detailed imagery of Harrison's work across media. Designed by Joseph Logan.

Rachel Harrison (b. 1966) graduated from Wesleyan University in 1989 and lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. This solo exhibition at the Astrup Fearnley Museet follows a mid-career survey at the Whitney Museum of American Art (2019-20). Harrison's work has been the subject of numerous solo exhibitions and catalogs and is represented in major public collections worldwide.

Press Images:

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