

Paying Attention to Detail

“Tungen lige i munden”, Information 05.07.2012, (Michael Jeppeson).

Rating: 5/6

Being shaven by Maria Finn might not be such a good idea. At any rate her works are apt to be more than just precise. They have an immense intensity, with nothing unnecessary being left behind. Her exhibition “Retake” covers a 13 year period with pictures taken in Parc de la Villette in 1999 and again in 2009; a video from 2010; brand new photographs from Øregårds Park; and a sound piece which has been hidden in an impressive rhododendron bush in the same park. Her project’s aim is necessarily to ask: What is the relation between text and film?

Being a work in itself, the video “Behind the Face” is quite ingenious. Not only must what is shown be looked at, but also the mere fact that something is actually being shown is of importance. In the film we encounter the same short stories that accompany the pictures from the park in Paris, read aloud to four women standing in front of a drawing of a park and edited with scenes from the park itself. It goes without saying that we are perhaps up against a lot of detail here, but it is difficult not to be fascinated by Finn’s project and the way she tackles it. We look at a film which indicates that it has actually been made into a film, but are we really aware of how the process develops from the text stage to the women and the park? We only know that we find ourselves extremely close to the edge. And it could very well have gone desperately wrong – as it could have ended up being a blog writing about a blog.

The sound piece in Øregårds Park consists of short narratives about people who conceal themselves. It pushes the boundaries of where the film was heading by eliminating the element of the film in that we have been substituted by the women. We listen to a fictitious script, just as the women do, while finding ourselves in a setup as if taken straight out of a film, our thoughts cast back to the wall nearby where we watched a video and saw a stylized drawing of the very same rhododendron bed on the library wall. Maria Finn has been paying attention to detail.

Maria Finn – “Retake” at Trane exhibition Gentofte Main Library, Ahlmanns Allé 6, Hellerup, until 4th August.