

Matias Faldbakken "Intervention #21" at Museum Boijmans, Rotterdam  
**September 27~2012**



This autumn Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen is presenting a selection of work by the Scandinavian artist Matias Faldbakken from the collection of Bert Kreuk. Earlier this year this private collector loaned the enormous *Baroque Egg with Bow* by Jeff Koons to the museum, where it remains on display in the foyer.

Faldbakken is renowned for his radical, provocative attacks on society and the art world. In thousands of ways his work pronounces a resounding 'no': he destroys and provokes, but at the same time he recognises that he irrevocably belongs to the society to which he is saying 'no'. In Rotterdam he is showing a sculpture composed of a block of lockers laced in with coloured straps and a framed plastic bag that he has set about with marker pen. These objects are inevitably labelled as 'art' because of their place in the exhibition.

'My work plays a lot with gallery conventions ... I think objects gain a lot but also lose a lot by becoming art,' Faldbakken explains. 'Because art is the absolute luxury good, the items really serve the most abstract function but collectors are still willing to pay high prices for them. And in that sense it gives an image to the absurdity of capital.'

'Everything around us can be art,' according to art collector Bert Kreuk. 'The ideas about and interpretations of objects determine whether we elevate the everyday to art. In my opinion the works by Matias Faldbakken possess the qualities to elicit this discussion. This makes his work especially intriguing and exciting for me.'

Matias Faldbakken's works arouse a certain unease because of Faldbakken's destructive approach, yet at the same time they are seductive for their insinuating combinations of popular culture and minimalism. At Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen he is presenting several works from his 'container series', including *Film Cans*, *Everted Jerry Cans* and *Locker Sculpture*. These works seem to allude to the emptiness of Western society: sometimes by turning everyday objects inside out or squeezing them empty, on other occasions by covering an object with an extra layer. For example, the empty film cans in *Film Cans* are spray-painted in chrome. By indulging his vandalism on the cans with chrome paint, Faldbakken literally superimposes a layer of all-encrusting glamour over the film industry's vacuity.

at Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam  
until 27 January 2013



*Untitled (Garbage Bag series), 2010*



*Film Cans, 2006*

*Double Cover Xerox 05, 2008*

All the works on show are from the Bert Kreuk Collection. Photos: Lotte Stekelenburg