

PETER MARTENSEN

(b. 1953)

Living and working in Hellerup, Copenhagen and Odsherred (DK)

In Peter Martensen's painting one traces a clear preference for the classic figure painting. He has created his own unique expression that is based on the immediately recognizable, but as always added a surreal twist.

Peter Martensen often works serially with issues that affect both past and present. A subject that interests him very much is the remarkable white shirted men who appear in the same pose but portrayed from different angles.

Their neutral attire and expressionless faces makes it impossible to tell them apart. Through the repetition of the same basic figure, man is reduced to anonymous unidentifiable clones that seem to go beyond the picture frame into infinity. All are fixed in the same pose, as in a dream where time has been stopped. Most of all they act helpless and paralyzed. The lack of contact amongst the people creates a disturbing silence. The melancholic and slightly eerie atmosphere is enhanced by the monochrome color scheme which Peter Martensen often uses.

In Peter Martensen's paintings becomes what, at a first glance seems simple and recognizable, upon closer inspection complex and puzzling. The paintings reveal themselves as inexhaustible artistic ability fields where dreams, reflections and statements about human conditions of life unfold. Each painting has a number of tracks, which in a challenging way opens up for even more interpretations. In this manner Peter Martensen not only tells a story, but leaves it up to the viewer to add signification to the picture.

In addition to painting, Peter Martensen also work with drawing, graphics and video art. Peter Martensen is also a successful portrait painter.