

# WHITNEY

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# MEDIA ALERT



Torbjørn Rødland (b. 1970), *Blue Portrait (Nokia N82)*, 2009-16. Collection of the artist; Courtesy of Eva Presenhuber, STANDARD (OSLO), David Kordansky and Greenspon

## Torbjørn Rødland Work to Be Featured in Outdoor Art Series

**NEW YORK, June 6, 2016**—On Tuesday, June 7, the Whitney Museum of American Art will unveil the latest work in a series of public art installations by key American artists on the facade of 95 Horatio Street, across from the Museum's building and the southern entrance to the High Line. *Blue Portrait (Nokia N82)*, 2009-16, by photographer Torbjørn Rødland, is the fourth work to be featured as part of the series, which was initiated by the Whitney in partnership with TF Cornerstone and High Line Art. Past installations have showcased works by Alex Katz (2014); Michele Abeles (2015); and Njideka Akunyili Crosby (2015-2016).

In *Blue Portrait (Nokia N82)*, the Los-Angeles based photographer Torbjørn Rødland uses his camera to create a mysterious, even perplexing combination of images, juxtaposing—among other things—a Nokia mobile phone and a portrait of Anne Frank. While often using images and objects from history and politics, Rødland insists on the openness of meaning in the photographic image. His approach is part intuitive and part intellectual, inviting personal and individual interpretations of material resonating with broader cultural meanings.

Rødland's carefully composed photographs convert seemingly everyday scenes into something more heightened than their status in ordinary life. His meticulous attention to color, texture and the quality of light elevates otherwise mundane subjects into beautiful and seductive images. Yet his juxtaposition of disparate objects and heraldic lighting makes his scenes not only alluring, but also unsettling and uncanny. Rødland's photographs are conceptually based; he chooses objects and settings for their cultural connotations and psychological potential, charging each image with seemingly incompatible references and unexpected emotional impact.

The installation is organized by Whitney assistant curator Elisabeth Sherman.

### **About the Artist**

Torbjørn Rødland (b. 1970, Stavanger, Norway) is a photographer based in Los Angeles and Oslo, Norway. He studied Photography at the National College of Art and Design in Bergen, Norway and Cultural Studies at the Rogaland University Centre in Stavanger, Norway. Rødland has had solo exhibitions at venues including Henie-Onstad, Oslo, Norway (2015); Albus Greenspon, New York, U.S. (2015 and 2013); Kunsthall Stavanger, Stavanger, Norway (2014); Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Hiroshima, Japan (2010); Contemporary Art Museum, St. Louis, U.S. (2010); and P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, New York, U.S. (2006). Rødland's work is in the permanent collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art; Fonds National d'Art Contemporain; Stedelijk Museum; Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; and the Cincinnati Art Museum. Forthcoming exhibitions include MANIFESTA 11, Zurich, Switzerland (June 2016), the 9<sup>th</sup> Berlin Biennial (June 2016); and a solo exhibition at Galerie Eva Presenhuber, Zurich (June 2016).

### **Exhibition Support**

This project is made possible by the Whitney Museum of American Art, TF Cornerstone, and High Line Art, presented by Friends of the High Line.

*Torbjørn Rødland: Blue Portrait (Nokia N82)* is part of Outside the Box programming which is supported by a generous endowment from The Jacques and Natasha Gelman Foundation.

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### **About TF Cornerstone**

TF Cornerstone was an early pioneer in the residential development of Greenwich Village's Meat Market and converted the Manhattan Refrigerating Company building, now 95 Horatio Street, to apartments in 1986. The High Line originally ran through the building at the point where the Whitney installations will hang. TF Cornerstone has been a major presence in the Village for more than 40 years and today is one of the largest apartment owners and managers in New York City. In addition, the company pioneered the transformation of Long Island City's waterfront into an amenity-rich thoroughfare, played a major role in residential development on the West Side of Manhattan, and has developed other notable properties in the Financial District and Upper East Side, among others. The company is owned and directed by K. Thomas and Frederick Elghanayan.

### **About High Line Art**

Presented by Friends of the High Line, High Line Art commissions and produces public art projects on and around the High Line. Founded in 2009, High Line Art presents a wide array of artwork including site-specific commissions, exhibitions, performances, video programs, and a series of billboard interventions. Curated by Cecilia Alemani, the Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Curator & Director of High Line Art, and produced by Friends of the High Line, High Line Art invites artists to think of creative ways to engage with the uniqueness of the architecture, history, and design of the High Line and to foster a productive dialogue with the surrounding neighborhood and urban landscape.

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