

CONNER CONTEMPORARY ART

MARIA FRIBERG : AM DC

May 17 - June 28, 2003

Conner Contemporary Art welcomes leading Swedish artist Maria Friberg in her first exhibition in Washington, DC. The show features the American premier of Friberg's video AM DC and photographic series aware but still there. To complement the new work, the gallery will also exhibit Friberg's critically acclaimed video no time to fall and selections from her lauded photographic series almost there.

Friberg is widely recognized in Europe as an artist who deconstructs myths of masculine power revealing paradoxes and surprising vulnerabilities inherent in traditional male roles. She based her captivating images of corporate masculine identity in almost there (2000) on first-hand observation of male power networks in a leading European IT firm. To create no time to fall (2001) the artist explains, "I use a known person for the first time - the president of America, Mr. Bush - to tell a private and public story at the same time." Addressing a topical subject in a profound manner that transcends political commentary, Friberg edited a taped speech to reveal the president's personal responses to public pressures. AM DC (2002) is Friberg's recent, unstaged video of two men reading newspapers and drinking coffee in a Capitol Hill cafe. She captures them unaware at a quiet moment, while contextualizing this interior scene within the larger world of business and politics at progress around them. The men are at once part of and yet strangely isolated from this world. In aware but still there (2002) Friberg presents large color photographs, shot in New York, of a Texas businessman and a Great Dane. She explains that these iconic images of man and dog are "about failing to break bad habits. You are aware of them but unable to change according to reason or others' expectations." The powerful works presented in this exhibition will demonstrate Friberg's creative command of her subject to a new American audience.

Friberg has recently exhibited at the Modern Museum, Stockholm, Sweden; Galica Arte Contemporanea, Milan, Italy; Arndt & Partner, Berlin, Germany; Yvonne Lambert, Paris, France; Statements at Art Basel, Switzerland (with Galleri Charlotte Lund); and at the Armory Photography Show, New York (with Conner Contemporary Art). In 2001 her first solo exhibitions in the United States were held at the Plains Art Museum, Fargo, North Dakota and the Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum, Santa Barbara, CA. Her works are featured in the permanent collections of the Modern Museum, Stockholm and the Malmo Museum, Malmo, Sweden, as well as in the corporate collections of Goldman Sachs, London, England; DG Bank, Frankfurt, Germany, and in the private collections of Mario Testino, London, England; Martin Margulies, Miami, FL, and Anthony Podesta, Washington, DC.

AMDC is presented in conjunction with Maria Friberg at Embassy of Sweden, May 19 - June 27th. The Embassy will exhibit a selection of older work encompassing both video and photography. For complete details: 202- 467-2642.