

Elmgreen & Dragset: Double visionaries

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2013

Elmgreen & Dragset Double visionaries

Scandinavian duo Michael Elmgreen and Ingar Dragset made for grand Guest Editors in 2013. Architecture and design buffs, champions of elevating public spaces and never afraid of a sight gag, the pair make smart (but never alienating) art for smart people. They made their name in 2005 with *End Station*, a recreation of a 1980s New York subway stop, and *Prada Marfa*, a fake luxury goods store that opened in the Texas desert the same year. Their work has taken on celebrity culture, consumerism, the failings of social housing and the way domestic interiors can speak of complex interior lives.

As Guest Editors they took us on a tour of their favourite fictional homes, from the punchy pop-art pads of Richard Hamilton and David Hockney and the film sets of Alfred Hitchcock, to the angst interiors of Danish painter Vilhelm Hammershøi. We also previewed 'Tomorrow', the imaginary home of a fictional architect they conjured at the V&A that year using its archive and their own works.

Since then, the pair have had shows in Tel Aviv, Beijing and Seoul; installed pop-up public art in New York, including *A Greater Perspective*, an oversized, useless bronze telescope on the High Line, and *Van Gogh's Ear*, an upright ear-shaped swimming pool at the Rockefeller Center. They've also curated 2017's Istanbul Biennial, opening 16 September. **NC See new contribution, page 291**



They take on the way domestic interiors can speak of complex interior lives...



Top: Elmgreen & Dragset, photographed by Jonathan de Villiers, with their 'Omnes Una Manet Nox' (The Same Night Awaits Us All) bed for Louis Vuitton, shown at their 2013 exhibition 'Tomorrow' at the V&A Museum. Above and right, the imaginary study and living room of the fictional architect Norman Swann, created for the show



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Elmgreen & Dragset
The Village

One single booth, isolated at the Grand Palais, one month prior to the art fair opening at the same location last autumn.



All these fairs... art or not?