

1 Prize. A K Dolven **Monument for Helene Schjerfbeck in Ekenäs Finland**

THE FINNISH UNTUNED BELL

A K Dolven won the 1 prize in an international competition in memory of the Finnish artist Helene Schjerfbeck (1862 - 1946). 148 participants submitted proposals.

The jury and the city have decided the work will be installed permanently. In the ceremony on the 12 of April she received the price of 15 000 Euro and the inauguration of the work will be May 2011.

Helene Schjerfbeck was a modernist artist from Finland. She crossed the borders of her country to gain knowledge and be part of a broader discussion. In a sense she brought the sound of Europe back home as part of her work. Both Bretagne and Cornwall were important to her.

Dolven's interest in the Untuned (to be different) is a concept linked to her work since the 90s (Out of Time, Out of Balance, Out of Season are all titles related to her paintings and installations).

Helene Schjerfbeck was disabled and her health made her out of tune with life as such. In spite of this condition she became a strong and defining artist, with new different tones in the Finnish landscape of Contemporary art in the beginning of last century.

In England Dolven acquired a 200-year-old slightly out of tune bell in the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. This Bell, a G, will be activated manually by a wooden sculptured arm in oak which is attached to the steel pillars made specially for the Finnish monument. The English bell will hang about 18 – 20 meter above the ground. Ten benches with inscriptions will be designed and made for the installation and constitutes a major part of the work.

At home in Finland the trees and a bench in a park were Schjerfbeck's every day life and important for her. The garden bench was her studio, she said.

In Oslo Dolven has a temporary (6.2 – 31.5 2010) work Untuned Bell based on a bell removed from Oslo City Hall which she has borrowed for the occasion. This installation, consists of a bell 20 m above ground activated by an electric ready made pedal. A 12 meter wide poster wall welcomes the city's inhabitants to discuss the untuned in our time. Her ongoing interest in sound and now how bells can express the untuned made her develop this new permanent work in Ekenäs in memory of Helene Schjerfbeck.

Dolven's comment:

For me, the poetry in this work is linked to a strong painter with a slight handicap who managed to set the tone for a generation of finish artist to come. I am happy to do this site specific work as a permanent installation in memory of Helene Schjerfbeck. A work of art always builds on previous works and thoughts. In this case The Finnish Untuned Bell would never have been possible to do without my experience now in Oslo although the whole installation is new as well the sound of course.