

## Frieze London 2024

Benedikte Bjerre

*The birds* (2017)

For Frieze London 2024 palace enterprise is proud to present *The birds* (2017), a sculptural work by Danish artist Benedikte Bjerre consisting of a large group of walking helium foil balloons in the shape of baby penguins. Combining analytical shrewdness with keen wit and spatial aptitude, Bjerre's work relates to the sculptural legacies of modernism in her investigation of popular culture, mass consumerism, and their consequences in looming shadow of the Anthropocene. Occupying the totality of the stand's floor plan, these dozens of cute, inflatable baby penguins bounce about aimlessly amidst the white cube. The penguins are readymades, each identical with oversimplified features, as they initially seem to satisfy our desire for entertainment.

The birds immediately maps on to the circulation of capital with its mechanisms of dispersion and dissolution, as the work offers reflection on how we all take part in a larger global system of distribution. Climate change obviously comes into play with the work's bold directness and its reference to Hitchcock's horror film with its nightmarish but arguably just reversals of power between humans and animals. While Hitchcock's birds become nature's tool of vengeance, Bjerre's penguins seem to accept their own limitations.

Benedikte Bjerre (born 1987, DK) is educated from Städelschule in Frankfurt am Main (2015), Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen (2016), De Ateliers in Amsterdam (2018). Recent solo exhibitions include Kunstverein Göttingen (DE) and O—Overgaden Kunsthalle (DK). Bjerre's works are included in the permanent collections of MMK, Frankfurt (DE), Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Wolfsburg (DE), Malmö Kunstmuseum, Malmö (SE), SMK – National Gallery of Denmark, Copenhagen (DK), ARKEN Museum of Contemporary Art, Ishøj (DK), Kunsten Museum of Modern Art, Aalborg (DK), and Kunstmuseum Brandt's, Odense (DK) among others.