



Smoliansky / Sandberg

MELK
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Smoliansky / Sandberg

● 07.11–30.11.2025

MELK – Elisenbergveien 7, 0265 Oslo

Gunnar Smoliansky (1933-2019) is considered one of the most influential Swedish photographers. He was born in Visby, on the island of Gotland, and devoted himself to the photographic image since the early 1950s. Smoliansky was an independent artist from the 1970s. He became acknowledged for his early work and a career that led him to work as a photographer's assistant and attend night school under Christer Strömholm. Smoliansky is one of four photographers who have been awarded the Prince Eugen Medal, conferred by the King of Sweden for outstanding artistic achievement.

Tom Sandberg (1953-2014) is considered a pioneer within the field of photographic art. He was born in Narvik, Norway, and worked and lived in Oslo.

In the early 1970s, Sandberg studied photography at Trent Polytechnic, Nottingham, England. His early work was one of the first acquisitions of photography by The National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design, Oslo.

Sandberg's international recognition peaked with the solo exhibition at MoMA PS1, New York, in 2007.

MELK proudly presents Smoliansky / Sandberg

This exhibition brings together a rare selection of works from two of the Nordic countries' most significant photographers of the 20th and 21st centuries. Both Gunnar Smoliansky and Tom Sandberg consistently worked in black and white and developed a distinctive form of photographic sensibility.

Smoliansky's intimate studies of everyday life, landscape, and people in Sweden create a poetic and precise narrative about light and silence. Sandberg's work, on the other hand, is characterized by a monumental presence and a distinctive ability to lift the trivial into something universal and existential.

By placing their works side by side, the goal is to create a dialogue between two artists who, in different contexts but with a similar vision, have contributed to shaping the understanding of photography as an artistic expression in the Nordics, but who have never been exhibited together before.

The exhibition is produced in collaboration with The Estate of Gunnar Smoliansky, Gallery Steinsland Berliner, Tom Sandberg Foundation, and Henie Onstad Art Center.

Hemma, 1976
Gunnar Smoliansky
Silver gelatin print
Unframed: 24 x 30 cm
Framed: 45.5 x 45.5 cm
NOK 48 000 + 5% art tax



Hemma, 1974
Gunnar Smoliansky
Silver gelatin print
Unframed: 24 x 30 cm
Framed: 45.5 x 45.5 cm
NOK 48 000 + 5% art tax



Untitled, 1991
Gunnar Smoliansky
Artist's proof #5, 2014
Silver gelatin print
Unframed: 30 x 30 cm
Framed: 45.5 x 45.5 cm
NOK 48 000 + 5% art tax



20 juni, 1967
Gunnar Smoliansky
Silver gelatin print
Unframed: 24 x 30 cm
Framed: 45.5 x 45.5 cm
NOK 48 000 + 5% art tax



Hemma, 1979
Gunnar Smoliansky
Silver gelatin print
Unframed: 24 x 30 cm
Framed: 45.5 x 45.5 cm
NOK 48 000 + 5% art tax



Södermannagatan, 1959
Gunnar Smoliansky
Silver gelatin print
Unframed: 20 x 20 cm
Framed: 45.5 x 45.5 cm
NOK 48 000 + 5% art tax



Untitled, 1987
Gunnar Smoliansky
Silver gelatin print
Unframed: 28 x 28 cm
Framed: 45.5 x 45.5 cm
NOK 48 000 + 5% art tax



Untitled, 1995
Gunnar Smoliansky
Silver gelatin print
Unframed: 28 x 30 cm
Framed: 45.5 x 45.5 cm
NOK 48 000 + 5% art tax



27 augusti, 1991
Gunnar Smoliansky
Silver gelatin print
Unframed: 28 x 28 cm
Framed: 45.5 x 45.5 cm
NOK 48 000 + 5% art tax



Hemma, 1977
Gunnar Smoliansky
Silver gelatin print
Unframed: 18 x 24 cm
Framed: 45.5 x 45.5 cm
NOK 48 000 + 5% art tax



15 september Nytorget, 1976
Gunnar Smoliansky
Silver gelatin print
Unframed: 24 x 24 cm
Framed: 45.5 x 45.5 cm
NOK 48 000 + 5% art tax



Untitled, 1999
Tom Sandberg
Framed: 45,2 x 54,2 cm
Unframed: 18 x 16,5 cm
Silver gelatin print



Untitled, ca. 2006
Tom Sandberg
Framed: 53 x 63 cm
Unframed: 26 x 39,5 cm
Silver gelatin print
€7000 + 5% art tax



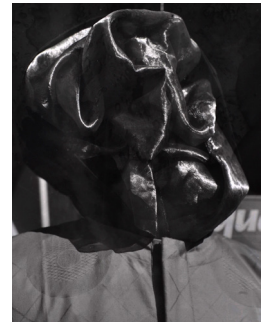
Untitled, 1984
Tom Sandberg
Framed: 72,5 x 57 cm
Unframed: 52 x 35 cm
Silver gelatin print
€7000 + 5% art tax



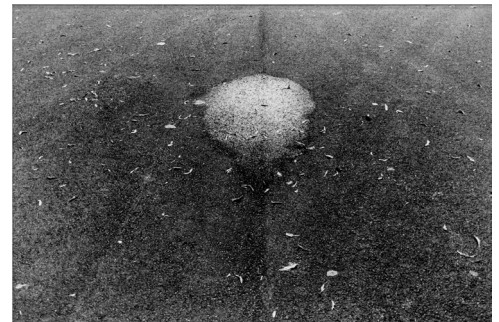
Untitled, ca. 1994
Tom Sandberg
Framed: 92,5 cm x 123 cm
Unframed: 64,5 cm x 96 cm
Silver gelatin print



Untitled, 2008-2010
Tom Sandberg
Framed: 45,3 x 54,3 cm
Unframed: 16,5 x 18 cm
Silver gelatin print
€7000 + 5% art tax



Untitled, 2010
Tom Sandberg
Framed: 42,5 x 59 cm
Unframed: 27,5 x 42 cm
Silver gelatin print
€7000 + 5% art tax



Untitled, 2002
Tom Sandberg
Framed: 100 x 138 cm
Unframed: 65,5 x 98 cm
Digital silver gelatin print
18 000 € + 5% art tax





Gunnar Smoliansky at MELK



Gunnar Smoliansky at MELK



Tom Sandberg at MELK



Tom Sandberg at MELK