

PREDICTING THE HARVEST

DANIEL ANDERSSON
2006 HASSELBLAD VICTOR FELLOW

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ACT I

OUTSIDE A SMALL VILLAGE. DAY.

It is the end of season and the ground has been fertile, the sheaves of wheat are piled high. A male farmer stands at the edge of the field before a lone remaining patch of wheat. He tips his cap and looks to the sky. A cloud slowly floats by and suddenly he recognizes the face of the guardian spirit in it. In the background the village girls can be heard imitating the song of the Third Season Bird.

FARMER

(quietly to himself)

Is a ray ever separate from the sun,
Will a drop exist separate from the ocean,
Will a German soldier ever stop loving his dead Kaiser, The light merges with the light,
The union is complete now, What a holy communion.

The eldest of the girls attaches small ribbons to the remaining straws of wheat. She makes the sign of sickles (a half circle shape surrounded by a circle in the air), at north, south, east and west. She then proceeds to bend the heads of the wheat toward the ground.

FARMER

(ecstatic)

Rejoice, for the beard is now curled!
The spirits have returned to the Earth!

GIRLS

(joining in the chanting)

Nus eht morf etarapes reve yar a si!

FARMER

(now in a loud thundering voice)

Father, father, father, in the sky, sky, sky,
Protect my flocks, from the evil eye, eye, eye,
From wicked people, from wild beasts,
And from all of the above. The feasts of these Judas popes!

Come along, now let us dwell in the shelters, as our ancestors did in the wilderness.

(even more frenetic)
Kol mevasser, mevasser ve-omer!

He that hath a beard is more than a youth,
and he that hath no beard is less than a man.

The young girls nod their heads wisely.

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Daniel Andersson is the 2006 recipient of the Hasselblad Victor Fellowship. He studied fine art and received his MFA from Konstfack University College of Arts, Crafts and Design in Stockholm. He has previously exhibited in Sweden, Finland and the U.K. 'Predicting the Harvest' is an installation consisting of photographs, drawings and paintings. In it, portraits of men with arcane and elaborate facial hair are juxtaposed with old landscape paintings and abstract symbols and shapes mirroring the geometry of their beards and moustaches. The installation is part of the artist's ongoing search for a meaningful cosmology which, rather than being invented anew, is invoked in the ancient and colliding mythologies of the beards and the landscapes. In this, he hints at something that is beyond the sum of the parts, something that is beyond the material world.

The work emerges out of a unique process of research and accumulation of found contemporary and historical materials, many sourced on eBay, which among other things involves the commissioning of (amateur) artists in the copying of photographs.

The Victor Fellowship 2006 and 2007 is a collaboration between London College of Communication University of the Arts London, University College for the Creative Arts at Farnham and the Hasselblad Foundation in Gothenburg, Sweden.

The Research Gallery
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4-22 June 2007

Monday-Friday 10 - 5
Saturdays by appointment

Private View Tuesday 5 June
6 – 8.30

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