

Kunstnerpræsentation: Arnfinnur Amazeen

Karaoke is a form of entertainment in which an amateur singer or singers sing along with recorded music. The music is typically of a well-known song in which the voice of the original singer is absent or reduced in volume.

I guess it is safe to say this work for Retfærd is born out of teenage memories of being a little bit disappointed about having a middleclass background. I was crazy about rap music and didn't feel that living in Iceland was very »street« and cool. So me and my friends said a lot of »yo!« and »motherfucker« and wore our pants prison-style (hængerøv) like the rappers on MTV.

This is probably what almost all teenagers do. You either try to look richer or poorer than you really are, the middle class does not really have a well identified look or feel to it and it does not really contribute much in its own right to popular culture. It is spoken about rather than spoken from.

There is truly something good to be said about the fact that people try to change and shape their surroundings and their identity to what they really like, regardless of where they come from. Also I quite admire the will and stubbornness that goes into adopting the esthetics and sensibilities of a culture, or the airbrushed media version of a culture, in which you can never be more than a tourist and a poser.

On the other hand there is also something quite sad about this. It is sad that someone can feel so let down and embarrassed by his own surroundings, when those surroundings would be considered luxury to the larger part of the world. But the embarrassment only goes so far and for the most part we are more than happy just to adopt a façade. And so a lot of expensive clothes and other such things are sold in rich societies like ours in order to make us look like we know hardship and rough times ... to make us look »authentic«.

Kunstneroplysninger:

Arnfinnur Amazeen er født 1977 i Island. Bor og arbejder i København,

Uddannet på Det Islandske Kunstakademi, Reykjavik og Glasgow School of Art.

Yderligere information: www.arnfinnuramazeen.dk