

Iván Navarro

THUNDER

October 28 – December 3, 2022

Martin Asbæk Gallery is pleased to present the exhibition *THUNDER* by renowned Chilean artist Iván Navarro, which marks the artist's first solo exhibition in Scandinavia. Iván Navarro is known internationally for his socio-politically charged sculptures of neon and fluorescent light, prolific in their references and allusions to modernity as well as in their innate symbols of power.

Born in 1972 in Chile, a few months before the coup d'état, Iván Navarro grew up under the Pinochet military dictatorship, known, among other things, to cut power to enforce curfews. In 1997, Iván Navarro emigrated to the States, where he became interested in the American minimalism of the 60 and early 70s as well as modern design and its use of materials such as fiberglass, plywood, plastic, sheet metal and neon.

Navarro began developing works combining language, optical illusions, and light, but unlike the minimalist mantra "What you see is what you see", Navarro's sculptural and conceptual works are based on his own childhood memories of light and methods of suppression. Over the years, Navarro has created pieces that deal with some of the darkest themes of our time: torture, imprisonment, domination, inequality, and political propaganda. But while the works may take their starting point in darkness, they are also brimming with optimism, with a desire for freedom, hope and liberation via the symbol of light.

The double-sidedness of light and electricity is also present in the title of the exhibition. The sound of thunder, caused by a nearby flash of lightning, should serve as a warning to anyone outside that they're within striking distance of a storm and need to get to a safe place immediately. But as a material, light and electricity do not only have a destructive side, they also draw connections to the fluorescent lights of modernity and its store fronts, as well as to their significance in modern everyday life and ability to "*turn night into day, amplify human powers of production, and alter the landscape of the visible world*", as stated by Cay Sophie Rabinowitz in the essay "Iván Navarro – Symbols of Power" (2014).

Iván Navarro (b. 1972) is born in Santiago, Chile, and currently lives and works in New York City, United States. He represented Chile at the 53rd Venice Biennale in 2009. Navarro's works are included in numerous collections, including, among others, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, Saatchi Collection, London, Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Chile, LVMH Collection, Inhotim, Brazil, Museum of Fine Arts Boston, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art Korea (MMCA), and the Zabłudowics Collection.