Press release

**Per Kristian Nygård: *The Economy of Form***

25.9.2020-14.2.2021

The artist Per Kristian Nygård (b. 1979) is known for his site-specific installations – often complicated constructions that transform the exhibition spaces. In the Vigeland Museum, he has built a monumental triumphal arch.

As the exhibition title suggests, Nygård’s project explores the relationship between economy and form, and how financial considerations contribute to determining the premises for shaping our surroundings. This is an issue he has also dealt with earlier, for example in his experimental housing project at Svartlamon in Trondheim.

Nygård is also preoccupied with the monument as idea. The Vigeland Museum was originally Gustav Vigeland’s (1869–1943) workshop and studio, and stands today as a monument over the sculptor. Inside this iconic building, Nygård has created his own version of a monument, a triumphal arch. Triumphal arches were traditionally erected in marble, with elaborate sculptural decorations. Nygård’s arch is built with lightweight aggregate blocks. These blocks are a rather cheap, prefabricated product and are normally concealed with concrete plaster or by being built into an outer construction. While many of Nygård’s previous installations are characterised by being almost seductively beautiful – what we encounter here is a grey wall.

On display in the exhibition are also smaller sculptures made out of u-blocks, a slightly different variant of the common Leca block. On the lawn in front of the museum, he has created an installation of thuja plants. The thuja plant is one of the most common plants in Norwegian gardens – and yet it is often considered a bit vulgar. It is frequently chosen because it is an evergreen – in other words, based on its function and not its aesthetic qualities. Just like the Leca block.

Nygård is educated at the Malmö Art Academy (2004-2010). He has held numerous solo exhibitions throughout the country, among them at Heimdal Art Association (2015) and Akershus Kunstsenter (2016). His exhibition *Not Red but Green* at NoPlace in Oslo in 2014 received a great deal of attention, also outside of Norway. A version of this work was included in the exhibition *The Garden* at ARoS in Denmark in 2017. Nygård has also previously exhibited in the Vigeland Museum; during the *Norwegian Sculpture Biennial* in2008.

With this exhibition, the Vigeland Museum continues its tradition of presenting young Norwegian artists and exciting contemporary art within the three-dimensional field.

The press is welcome to meet the artist in the Vigeland Museum in the days before the exhibition opens. Please contact communications manager Unni Irmelin Kvam (95172672) or curator Guri Skuggen (90581218) to make an appointment.