

# dep,art,ment

MARIA FRIBERG visas i Loungen på Hotel Diplomat 10 februari - 3 april 2011  
Maria Friberg är en av landets mest framgångsrika fotokonstnärer.

Hennes verk berör vitt skilda teman men har i många år haft ett gemensamt drag i att de ofta visar män. Typiskt för Maria Fribergs bilder är en intressant dubbelhet: figurerna tycks tagna ur ett välbekant sammanhang och förflyttade till mer eller mindre abstrakta omgivningar som snarare gestaltar psykiska eller samhällsliga tillstånd.

Nya serien *Way Ahead* är en serie fotografier som med sitt panoramaperspektiv påminner om landskapsmålningar eller målningar av slagfält. Panoramata visar samma ögonblick på flera platser och just en sådan glidning kännetecknar dessa bilder: ett undantag i tid och rum. Figurerna tycks befinna sig mellan ett nyss avslutat förflutet och en okänd framtid. Med Fribergs karaktäristiska reducerade bildspråk är även det immateriella stramt och säkert framställt. *Way ahead* har, som många av hennes tidigare serier, visats runt om i Europa och i USA men visas nu för första gången i Sverige.

Videoverket *Embedded*, visas samtidigt och är en undersökning av förhållandet mellan den naturliga världen och den kulturellt betingade världen. Männerna i videoverket, som är en triptych, rör sig långsamt, de är till hälften vakna, till hälften sovande i slow-motionrörelser.

I hotellets korridor på första våningsplan kan man hitta fotoserien *Embedded*, som ingår i hotellets samling. Ett högst passande tema för hotellets gäster.

Maria Friberg (f. 1966) representeras i Stockholm av Galleri Charlotte Lund.  
Flera av hennes verk ingår i bland annat Moderna museets samling.

[www.department.nu](http://www.department.nu)

Embedded, 2006

The “Embedded” series began as an examination of the relationship between the natural world and the cultural world. Like the title implies, it’s about a feeling of security, about being enclosed and protected. But there’s an ambiguity to this condition, it could also be understood as a kind of confinement, of being isolated and enclosed.

The men in the “Embedded” images and the video triptych of the same name move slowly, like icebergs floating on the horizon. They are half awake, half asleep, moving between the natural and cultural worlds, embodying a natural culture or a cultured nature. Moving like slow-motion waterfalls, polar bears on glaciers, seals under water, they are on their way, but where to? The men are part of a constant flow, they come from all parts of the world, a world where everyone is both unique and replaceable.

The images are about natural beauty, but also about the way the world is slowly collapsing. They are about knowledge and power, about the impossibility of seeing the big picture, in your private life as well as the world at large.

In contemporary society, information itself is embedded – it is simultaneously out in the open and hidden away, a Trojan horse wrapped around itself.

Maria Friberg 2006-11-12 Stockholm

way ahead, 2009

“way ahead” is a photographic series about how we meet our future. You can neither be in the future nor see the future, but you can have an idea of what the future will bring and see a diffuse picture of it in your head.

Idea-wise I was inspired by paintings of historic battles such as the Battle of Lützen, etc. Men rising up in the fog trying to see what has happened and where they are. These paintings have also inspired me from a design perspective, as they are often created in extreme horizontal formats. Long and narrow, these pictures give a sense of time and concurrently refer to the oblong screens of feature film. This horizontality also anchors the pictures to the ground, they become extreme landscape paintings. The cut of the images gives the feeling that you are sitting in a bunker looking out at the world.

While working with this series of photographs, the battle field feeling has become more and more a sense of uncertainty and optimism for the future. Meeting that which is to come with expectation.

The men are standing and sitting like figures in an architecture model. They are unreachable. They create perspective and direction in the diffuse landscape with their bodies. It is these directions – inwards towards themselves and outwards, forwards – that form the core of the work. A still movement.

Maria Friberg 2009