

Truth or Dare?

A solo exhibition by Charlotte Donvang
10-24 June 2014 at Artiseri Gallery, Seri Pacific, Kuala Lumpur



Cover, detail of:
Captivated
See page 24

Thank you

To:

Dave Parks
Yusof Gajah
Artiseri Gallery
Dorte Dyrlund
Ahsan Qureshi
Nillie Palacios
Joshua Gui
Nicolai Ruge
Vanitha Krishnasamy
Lim Swee Teng

For:

Always supporting me
Artistic Advice
Hosting the Exhibition
Graphic Design
Photography
Dancing and costumes
Dancing
Being Guest of Honour
Advice and PR
Construction and handyman

Message from the Danish Ambassador

A picture is worth more than a thousand words. This simple phrase refers to the notion that a complex idea can be conveyed with just a single still image. However, the understanding of art is hardly the same in every language? But does it have to be that? Even in the same language, art can still be interpreted differently. It makes it possible for the single individual to interpret and make its own conclusions. It stands out as a human gift, full of creativity, which puzzles and stimulates the mind.

When living intimately with art every day, and not just through an occasional visit to a gallery, art becomes an integral part of the understanding of different cultural values. It provides an understanding of the historical context, of the cultural framework within which society work. It helps to explain, interpret and understand the world in which we live, to challenge conventional worldviews and current ideas, thoughts and practice. It bridges cultures, providing access to the experience of people in other times and places. It is a universal language enabling everybody to communicate across cultures.

Nicolai Ruge

Ambassador of Denmark, Malaysia

A selection of Charlotte Donvang's exhibitions:

- "Depth & Deception" with Photographer Ahsan Qureshi at The Westin, Kuala Lumpur 2013 (Duo)
- Grand Opening Exhibition of Artiseri Gallery, Kuala Lumpur 2013 (Group)
- "Aalborg in Colour" in Aalborg, Denmark 2013 (Group)
- Furkunst.dk exhibition in "Kulturspinderiet" at Silkeborg, Denmark 2013 (Group)
- "Colours of Life" at Equatorial Hotel, Kuala Lumpur 2012 (Solo)
- Furkunst.dk exhibition at "Kulturspinderiet" in Silkeborg, Denmark 2012 (Group)
- "Art with a Heart" at Gateway, Kuala Lumpur 2011 (Group)
- "A Creative Family" at Glyngoere Museum, Denmark 2010 (Group)

Truth or Dare?

**“Truth or Dare” is more than a children’s game...
it’s a way of life!**

As an artist my life evolves around both truth and dare and in this Exhibition I attempt to uncover some of the truths that I see around in my life... within myself or with others as a reflection of myself. It’s also a challenge where I dare myself to go further and explore things unknown to me, because only when I dare going beyond what is known or normal for me, will I learn something new in the process... and there I might discover a more truer truth!

In the children’s game you can choose to either tell the truth... or be presented with a dare. Normally this dare could be pretty nasty things that you need to do... yet we often didn’t really want to tell the truth. Alas, this was often only to find out that the dare might be even more awful!

As human beings most of us have at times had difficulties facing the truth. It’s normally because of experiences we have had in the past where we found out that sometimes the truth can hurt, it can be painful either for us or others... so next time we might try to avoid going there.

But what is truth really?

Well, it’s a central subject in philosophy and it has been a subject for discussion for

thousands of years. Yet there are no finite definitions as to what is truth... and there may be many truths. So how can we know that we hit The Truth?

Or could there be different levels of truth?

Could we for instance talk about truth on a personal level, such as in facts about who, what, when etc? Could this be truth in its most simplistic form... a factual kind of truth or fact?

But then there’s our own truth... the truth of who we truly are as individuals. This is very often a truth we overlook because we have been conditioned by our peers, society, our educational system, politics, religion etc... and ourselves... to believe that we just are and that there’s nothing much we can do about the shape and form of society and our lives in the bigger picture. But what if we start searching deeper within ourselves? Would we find that our own truthfulness is much more than surface deep and what we surround ourselves with. Could it be that truth is that which brings a sense of great inner peace when we are completely aligned with ourselves and our purpose in life?

We also have universal truths, which are more difficult to grasp because on one level we have scientists who for millennia understood the truth of the universe in a certain way and we, through our educational system and society, have been led to believe that there are only those truths. Yet on another level, as our species discovers new technology and advances our understanding through science, we have also been discovering other and new aspects of universal truth including our history and intergalactic knowledge. It seems like truth could be expanding!

And maybe we are getting more attuned to other dimensions of the Universe?

However, far more important than simplistic definitions of truth may be a question that we could ask ourselves:

Do we dare the truth?

And do we dare to search for our own inner truths? The truths that truly rings home as profoundly essential and right to us as individuals as well as a collective?

Maybe we also need to dare to go beyond the known truth to find the deeper truth?

Because really... when do we know we have found the truth? Or... when can we trust that somebody else has found the truth?

I have to test my limits. I have to dare to being true to myself... and dare to be free of conventions at the same time! I have to dare to see everything in a new light, from new angles... and explore new ways of expressing this. I have to trust that when I dare, I am... true to myself!

My life is about learning and discovering new things... and for me the symbiotic dance between truth or dare as concepts has become a way of life as I evolve myself and my art.

This Exhibition comes from my heart and it shows many different aspects of me and my work. It shows progression in my life and the rebellion dare devil within at the same time. It touches upon my truths, I play with universal truths on many levels, but most importantly, I hope that with this idea of truth or dare I will give you an insight into your own beliefs of truth and dare you to go beyond in a search for your own truth of who you are!

Ready for a round of TRUTH OR DARE?



Me, Myself and I
Acrylic on Canvas
300 x 120 cm
2014

Just the three of us: Me, Myself and I. We can be powerful companions... or our own worst enemies.

Are we in top ego mode thinking of ourselves only: thinking first of me, then of myself and then of the needs of I... to finally thinking of others in that order? Are we speaking for ourselves only and not thinking of what others might feel?

What if our true and balanced state instead consisted of a inner Divinity, a female side and a masculine side? And what if we

could make these dance a graceful and symbiotic dance, wouldn't that bring out the music in us, in our lives and the lives of those we meet? Could it be that by listening to our inner Divinity we felt connected to the lives of others and by embracing our feminity and maculinity in one dance, that we would feel both compassion and take necessary actions to understand the bigger picture?

What can you do in your life to balance your inner Divinity with your female and masculine sides?

The energy expression of "Me, Myself and I" was performed as a dance by Nillie Palacios and Joshua Gui at the opening reception of the exhibition. The video will be available via www.donvang.com



Life is not always what it appears to be on the surface... and often we don't look any further with others nor with ourselves. We kind of lost it, or learned to, ignore contact with other layers in our lives. But what if we by quiet contemplation could look into these inner aspects of ourselves: the good and the evil, the black and the white, the ying and the yang?

What if this journey could help us discover our own angelic sides, the sides we have been conditioned to learn does not matter while we learned about maths, science and foreign language?

What if getting to know our inner and deeper aspects was the most important language you could learn... what would you do to learn to read the layers of your life?

Layers of Life
Acrylic on Canvas
168 x 138 cm
2014



Truth
Acrylic on Canvas
150 x 150 cm
2014

We search for truth yet what truth are you looking for? And what truth is more important to know?

What if truth were nothing more than a vibration or a frequency? A frequency so high and pure that it only resonates with one thing: love?

The feeling of love tends to send its tentacles out and spread because the vibration of love is universal and speaks across language, cultures, borders and religion. What if this frequency could eventually calibrate the lower vibrations of fear, evil, hate and greed? What if we all send love to our neighbours, friends, family, to nature, to people who are in war and people who hate? What if we all send our love to the Universe... wouldn't life become easier and more pleasurable for all of us?

If truth were love, what can you do today to be in a state of love so you can help yourself and others to a more truthful life?



Angelic Thoughts

Acrylic on Canvas
81 x 81 cm
2014

Our thoughts are more powerful than we think yet most of us allow our thoughts to control us instead of we controlling our thoughts. Have you ever allowed a feeling to manifest into a fear that something unpleasant is going to happen? And then later to find out that it did happen but wasn't unpleasant at all? What if we, instead of allowing our thoughts to think in negative patterns, and possibly attract negative events, allowed everything to evolve its natural course and take it from there? What if we instead of worry thought that everything is perfect? What if we only believe that the best of the best will happen to us? And what if our thoughts were always pure, positive and angelic, wouldn't we feel more happy and relaxed?

Have you experimented with your thoughts lately? What can you do to think better thoughts about yourself, life and everything?

We are the centre of our Universe... Each and everyone of us. We see our lives and the world from what we are and where we are. But what if we all had more universes or shadow lives than the one reality we are currently living in?

Who says that what we experience now is reality and our dreams are not? Maybe the dreams are just one of many parallel universes? And what if one of these other parallel universes could become the one we feel is real? Could being the centre of our own Universe mean that we can change what we see and experience and therefore become something different to what we were and what it felt and looked like there?

Can you do anything in your life to change your universe to one that is better and more rewarding for you? Should you?



Parallel Universe

Acrylic on Canvas
76 x 56 cm
2014



Alienated
Acrylic on Canvas
81 x 81 cm
2014

As human beings we may come to a point in our lives where we suddenly feel that we don't belong with the people we are with or those we are surrounded by. That might even be with our family, our friends, colleagues or maybe others.

We may feel that we are alienated from those in the circles around us or from what we do... yet could it be that in reality, we are alienated from ourselves and what we really feel, think and say?

Could it be that it is the way we think about others that seems to be the real problem and that we forgot to ask about ourselves and what we feel deep inside? Do we know ourselves well enough to consider us our own best friend?

What do you do to make yourself feel welcome, respected, loved and part of the whole? What can you do better?



Throughout our life we meet deadlines. In most modern societies we grow up with having to meet deadlines from a young age and their importance seems to grow as we as individuals grow older; Get a job, a new house, a partner or spouse, a bigger car, a promotion etc. It's almost like our happiness depends on it but in reality we are also setting ourselves a new deadline for every one we just passed!

Have you ever been stressed out by the deadlines you face? It's like our vision gets blurred and we lose the ability to judge what's important in life: our own happiness. It can almost seem like it is fashionable to focus more on deadlines than on the self.

Maybe we should learn to live by "Divine" deadlines instead? The type of deadlines, which naturally comes while we go with the flow...?

If you keep on doing what you are doing, will you end up as a Dead Line?

Deadline
Mixed media
19 x 66 x 106 cm
2014



Dream
Acrylic on Canvas
150 x 150 cm
2014

Is our dreams reality... or is our reality a dream?

Like most of us you might have been dreaming that something particular would happen, maybe in a day dream or in a sudden hit of intuition. You might even have been visualising your dream or thinking a lot about it, and then a while later or maybe even years later... it happens!

You can use your dreams to your benefit! Start by turning any nightmare into something positive by consciously looking for the positive sides in the dream... what is the dream trying to tell you or warn you about? Then consciously dream it again turning on all the positive, peaceful and powerfully good aspects. Or simply induce your own positive dreams to your reality and see the shift...

What can you do to use your dreams to your benefit? Why not dream the dreams you want to become reality?

How many friends do you have?

And how many of them are real and true friends? The type of friend that you would do ANYTHING for... and they on the other hand will come when you cry for help...

With Facebook and social media we all seem to have so many friends but what kind of friends are they? Acquaintances maybe? A face and a name on our gadget... Would we recognize them on the street, let alone be able to know and feel what they need from a friend right now? And what about your friends, do you share with them what matters in the bigger picture of your life? Or simple trivia, food pictures, shopping, events and selfies?

What can you do to connect with a friend on a deep level that matters to him or her? What can you do for a friend today?



Friends
Mixed media
Variable, approx 100 x 120 x 175 cm
2014



A New Era
Acrylic on Canvas
55 x 64 cm
2012

Some people believed that 21 December 2012 would see the end of our world, yet most of us woke up the next day to discover that the world as we know was still the same. Or was it?

According to the ancient Mayas the date marked the change of energies and the start of a new era resulting from the solar meridian crossing the galactic equator. At this very time the Earth was aligning itself with the centre of the galaxy it's said. The Mayas believe that this will eventually lead to no more darkness but instead to uplifted unity amongst us human beings and a healing of our planet and our species.

What can you do to shift yourself into a new era of peace, love, respect, tolerance, sharing, gratitude and forgiveness?

This painting was painted on 21 December 2012 and is a download of the energies of that day.

We may look at the sky and feel we are infinitesimal... and we are, yet in some way we are still universally connected. The cosmos can be seen as a reflection of us, we are also a cosmos consisting of billions of cells, neutrons and organisms we can't see and don't even know much about yet. But it works... well, most of the time!

If we, like the universe breathing its subtle cycle, are consciously breathing deeper, quieter and more regular, we can help our own internal cosmos, our body and our mind. We will feel more connected to our body and its subtle cycles of energy so we can serve ourselves better.

Can you breath deeper, quieter and more regular? Will you try the experiment and then feel what happens with your mind and your body...?



Cosmic Breath
Acrylic on Canvas
81 x 81 cm
2014



Universal Selfie
Acrylic on Canvas
81 x 81 cm
2014

Selfies... the photo of self... have become extremely popular. Is this an indication of too much focus on self rather than the whole? Have we become more obsessed with our looks and how we appear to others rather than how we feel, what we stand for and who we truly are?

If we were taking a selfie of our planet or our Universe, even our own personal Universe, what would that look like? Would it be about looks and self focus? Or would it be about balance, truth and human connectivity?

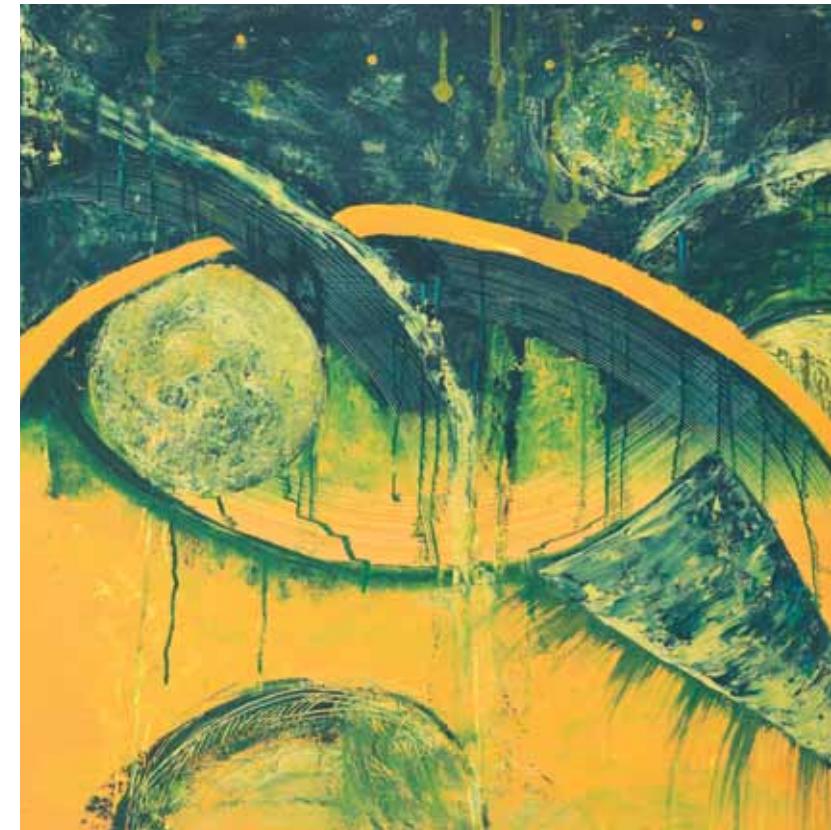
Dare you look at your selfies differently? What would be your ideal selfie for the higher good of us all?

Often when we hear somebody say "you need a reality check" they mean that you are having unreasonably high expectations about something. Maybe that your goals are too high, your aspirations or your dreams of the future?

But what if it is exactly those very high goals, aspirations and dreams that makes us move forward, make us invent and come with new ideas and solutions, make us reach new heights?

Could it be that those who steal the dreams and kill the aspirations of others are the ones who need a reality check?

Are you a dream stealer who needs a reality check? Are you positive about other people's progressive ideas?



Reality Check
Acrylic on Canvas
81 x 81 cm
2014



Mind Control
Acrylic on Canvas
81 x 81 cm
2013

Mind control is different to controlling the mind as the first is essentially the same as indoctrination or brain washing... while the latter is something we do of our own free will.

What if our society is so effective in mind control that we have completely forgotten how to ask questions, especially the right questions? Have we been indoctrinated to believe everything the education system

teaches us, do as we're ruled and take anything the doctors give us, for instance?

We sometimes might feel that we have no choice but we might simply not allow ourselves to see other solutions than the one immediately in front of us...

Are you controlling your own mind? What questions can you ask to give yourself freedom of thought and mind?

Mind Games
Acrylic on Canvas
81 x 81 cm
2014



Is your mind playing games with you? Are your thoughts often drifting to other places or subjects instead of being present in the now?

A lot of us have tried it both on ourselves or with others... somebody's there but it feels like nobody is home because the thoughts have drifted. Or maybe their mind is occupied with guessing what you are going to say next, or answering a question that wasn't even asked or thought of yet? It's just the mind playing games on its own... but this we can work with by the simple intention of presence of mind.

Do you have presence of mind or is your mind regularly playing games with you?



There are so many ways we can lead our lives yet only we ourselves know if we are living the life perfect for us.

If we are mostly passive and let life happen to us then maybe we often ask the question "what happened? Maybe we are being held captive by what we allow to happen to us? We may be prisoners of our own negative thoughts and limiting beliefs?

If, on the other hand, we are in line with our own purpose and living the life perfect for us then others will find us captivating on some level. And we ourselves will find what we do extremely captivating and exciting.

Are you captivated... or captivating? Are you daring yourself enough to lead a life which is captivating and exciting for you?

Captivated

Acrylic on Canvas
150 x 150 cm
2013-14

30 cm

Mixed media

80 x 90 x 200 cm

2014



We often get told that we need to think or use our brain... especially when we are making decisions. But how often do we get told to use our heart?

Most of the time it's only if we're asked to do something good, like for charity or helping others... but we're never asked to use our heart for business decisions or decisions about education or maybe even our life.

The paradox is that the heart is actually the organ in our body with the highest vibration... and it is 60 times higher than the brain! Scientists have found that when we learn to communicate with our heart through our thoughts and emotions, we can change our own energy field and therefore what happens to us. If we do it right, we can change everything for the better.

To move our decision making from the brain to the heart is a difficult journey because we have been conditioned to think rather than feel whether a decision is right for us.

What can you do to move your decision making processes from the brain to the heart, a difficult journey of only 30 cm?

Charlotte Donvang



The Danish artist Charlotte Donvang is much more than a continuously developing painter. She is an energetic artist, visionary, a dreamer, a healer, spiritual being and life artiste.

Charlotte Donvang was born into a family of artists and is living her passion of spreading joy with art, colour and creativity. Despite being taught art techniques and expression since childhood she did for many years try to avoid becoming an artist, by dancing with creative adventures such as working in advertising and with entrepreneurship and healing. However, destiny finally caught up with her bringing her onto her truthful path of artistic expression.

To Charlotte, art is an expression of the most fundamental and basic in life: energy. While believing that everything ultimately can be translated into energy vibrations she uses her psychic capabilities to translate these universal energies

into different languages that might be easier for us human beings to understand: colour, shape, form and words. She also works with music, song and movement as ways of expression and as part of her art.

Charlotte's style is constantly developing as she develops herself as a human and spiritual being. Her art is becoming more focused on the big questions in life, the questions about our own integrity, truth and consciousness. She is conceptually working with different layers of the human self while letting the often explosive colours combine with figurative elements to insinuate just this. Her works have almost spiritual connotations as she plays with the way we see the world.

Charlotte looks at the essence of life in general, of our own lives and encourages us to question ourselves, the way we see life as well as our world view. Her vision is to inspire and encourage conscious living and to empower people to be more content and connected through art, colour and creativity.

"If you tell the truth,
you don't have to remember anything."
Mark Twain

www.donvang.com

Artiseri Gallery, Seri Pacific Hotel, Jalan Putra, Kuala Lumpur