



# Memory Banks

**5 Oct 2018 – 10 Feb 2019 at the Contemporary Arts Center in Cincinnati, United States**

28 DECEMBER 2018



Memory Banks. Courtesy of Contemporary Arts Center

Painters often draw from existing visual materials, such as photographs and reproductions of past works of art, to inspire and construct their work. Swedish artist Mamma Andersson (born 1962)—known for her dreamlike, faintly

narrative compositions inspired by Nordic painting, folk art, newspaper photographs, and cinema—is no exception.

But Andersson takes this process a step or two further, importing images of stacks of books and stray photographs, clipped from various sources, directly into her painted compositions. With careful observation, Andersson’s dreamy landscapes and interiors (often combined) slowly come to reveal common imagery and accumulated biblio-ephemera filtered through, and sharing space with, the artist’s muted palette, melancholic scenery, and textural paint. *Mamma Andersson: Memory Banks* focuses on this aspect of Andersson’s painting practice, exploring how her use of appropriated imagery and collaged elements charges her paintings with an eerie, uncanny sense of familiarity while indulging in wholehearted fantasy and suggestive narrative.

Karin Mamma Andersson was born in 1962 in Luleå, Sweden. She studied at the Royal College of Fine Arts in Stockholm, where she continues to live and work. Solo exhibitions of her work have been presented at Museum Haus Esters in Krefeld, Germany; the Aspen Art Museum; and the Moderna Museet, Stockholm. In 2003, she represented the Nordic Pavilion in the 50th Venice Biennale. In addition to *Memory Banks*, she is the 2018 recipient of the Guerlain Drawing Prize, Paris, and a participant in the 33rd Bienal de São Paulo.

*Mamma Andersson: Memory Banks* (Damiani) is published on the occasion of the FotoFocus Biennial 2018 and Andersson’s exhibition at the Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati.

## Contemporary Arts Center

The CAC provides experiences through exhibitions and performances as well as educational and outreach programs, to engage and interact with the art, artists, and ideas of our time.

Location: Cincinnati, United States  
Founded in 1939

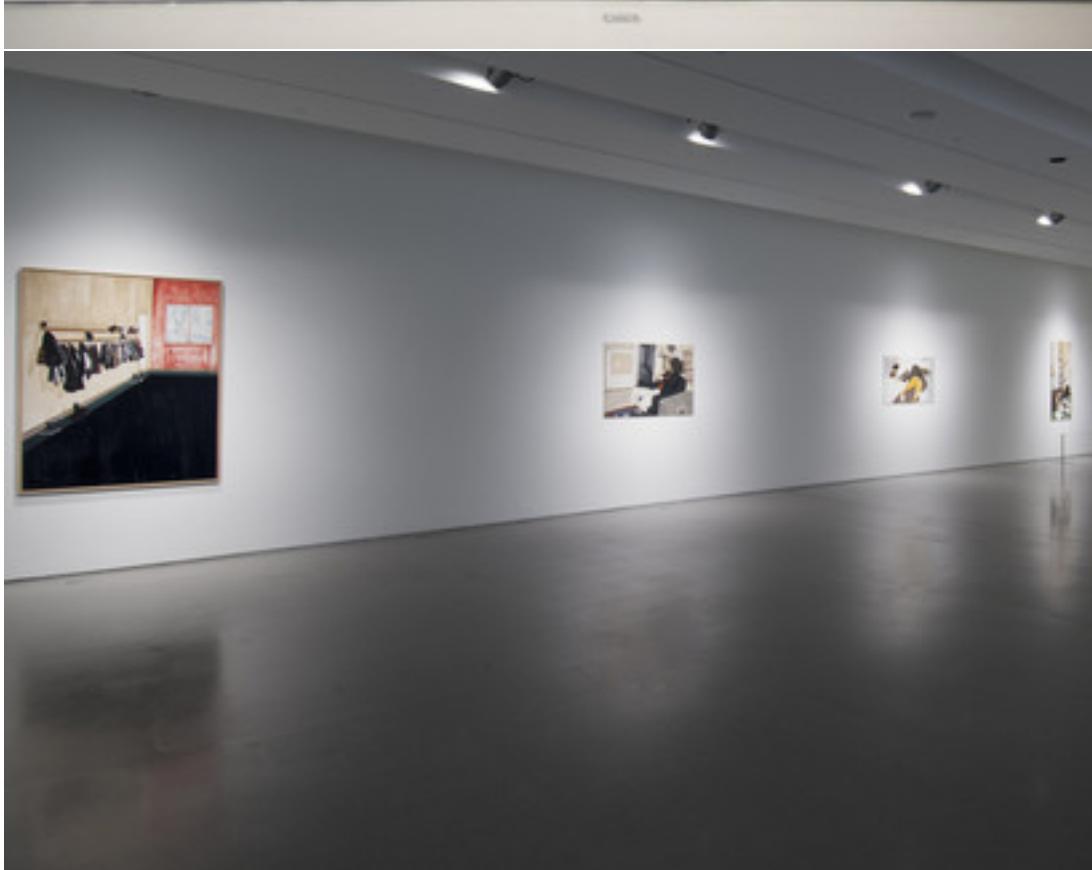
# MAMMA ANDERSSON *MEMORY BANKS*



Painters often draw from existing visual materials, such as photographs and reproductions of works of art, to inspire and construct their work. Swedish artist Mamma Andersson (b. 1962) – known for her darkly evocative compositions inspired by Nordic painting, folk art, newspaper photographs, and cinema – is no exception. But Andersson takes this process a step further, importing images of stacked books and X-ray photographs, clipped from various sources, directly onto her painted compositions. The source materials themselves become their own kind of subject matter, animating interior scenes as ephemeral reminders of the artist's tastes and interests, as well as evocations of formidable spans.

Mamma Andersson: *Memory Banks* focuses on this aspect of the artist's practice, exploring how subject matter and her use of appropriated and collaged imagery charges her paintings with an uneasy sense of the real and the familiar, while plunging wholeheartedly into fantasy and suggestive narrative. The exhibition includes paintings spanning Andersson's career, including six new works, as well as a recent set of woodblock prints and sketches featuring photographs and other ephemera—the "memory banks"—from Andersson's Stockholm studio.

Text © Mamma Andersson 2012. Credit: David Stjernholm. All rights reserved. Photo: David Stjernholm. Andersson's studio, Stockholm, Sweden. 2012. Installation view of the exhibition "Mamma Andersson: Memory Banks" at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, 2012. © 2012 The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Photo: David Stjernholm. Credit: David Stjernholm. Photo: David Stjernholm. Credit: David Stjernholm.





1. Memory Banks. Courtesy of Contemporary Arts Center
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