

**Press release for the book BY MÖRCK. By Jon Nordstrøm and including contributions from - among others - Olafur Eliasson. The book will be released by Nordstroms Forlag on April 14th, 2016.**

The book BY MÖRCK by Jon Nordstrøm, author of *Danish Tattooing*, *The Bicycle in Nørrebro* and *Husmor og mad*, is a journey through the life of illustrator and stamp engraver Martin Mörck.

*A stamp is a ticket for a journey from the writer's to the recipient's hand. The journey takes time and passes through various spaces, post boxes, mail bags and bike bags, in bitter cold and in the dark. Since the middle of the 19th century, stamps have contributed to our shared national image bank. They usually consist of an image: an ornate number, a king or a queen; churches, birds, art; subjects that celebrate holidays or causes.*

- Olafur Eliasson

The book revolves around Martin Mörck's work with steel engravings for stamps. The reader will be met with images and text from the sources that have inspired his work, from the actual production of stamps and from some of the processes where Martin Mörck has collaborated with other artists - like Bjørn Nørgaard, Olafur Eliasson, Finn Nygård and Claus Carstensen - on crafting the subject. The book will reveal how meticulously Martin Mörck works and how crafted, overwhelming and fascinating the steel engraving process is. Everything is done by hand with special tools made from Swiss steel, Martin's rock-steady hand scratching subjects onto steel one to one under the magnifier. A practice rooted in the Late Middle Ages almost 1.000 years ago.

*As an engraver, Martin exhibits great accuracy and intuitively understands why and how his craftsmanship can heighten an artistic expression. Together, we developed the stamps Art Pass Hugo Boss (2005), Eyeball Stamp (2005), Frimerki fyrir Hörpu (2011) and, most recently, for Plads til venlig hilsen (Space for warm regards) (2014). To work with Martin is to melt idea, knowledge and craft into a single organic process.*

- Olafur Eliasson

One of the book's focal points will be the unique sample prints made by Martin Mörck towards the end of the engraving process. The tiny steel plate the stamp is engraved on is overlaid with a special type of paper and then subjected to 15 tons of pressure. Looking at the resulting print through his magnifying glass, Martin subsequently decides whether to go ahead with mass production of the stamp or to scratch months of work and start over. Either way, the sample print is destroyed. The book will explore these unique and fleeting works of art by the engraver - created from the very same plate whose steel will be used to mass produce millions of stamps.

Martin Mörck has been working as an engraver, illustrator and artist since 1978, with stamps and bank notes making up the main body of his work. Several of the more than 830 Mörck stamps in existence today have been printed in more than 50 million copies each, making Martin one of the most widely published artists in the world.

The whole world is Martin Mörck's playground, but he also retains a strong sense of belonging. He was born and raised in Sweden to a Swedish textile artist mother and a Norwegian graphic artist father. Today, he lives on a small island off the Gothenburg Archipelago, has a workshop in Copenhagen, travels the world regularly in connection with commissions and maintains bases in both Greenland and China, where he spends a couple of months every year. Martin Mörck's body of work is comprehensive - including stamps, bank notes, magazines, fashion work etc. - but the book BY MÖRCK will focus on Martin's work with stamps.

BY MÖRCK by Jon Nordstrøm, 264 pages, hardcover.

Suggested retail price, Dkr. 299,00 / € 39,00.

Available through [www.nordfrim.dk](http://www.nordfrim.dk)

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