

OnCulture.eu

## Paintings of a happy man

### Olav Christopher Jenssen exhibits in Helsinki

22/1/2010 - 28/3/2010

Author: [Esko Airaksinen -Helsinki desk](#)

Helsinki's [Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art](#) opens its first exhibition of the year focusing on a very important contemporary Norwegian artist. Berlin-based Olav Christopher Jenssen (b. 1954) presents his latest colouristically exuberant paintings and organic sculptures on the fifth floor of the museum, under the title *Panorama*, from January 22 to March 28, 2010. *Panorama* features a new kind of Jenssen. Just like all of the painter's series, this one too is a step in a new direction.



The paintings of the Norwegian artist Olav Christopher Jenssen (b. 1954) are spontaneous, yet they are also highly controlled. Jenssen says he needs both approaches, which is why he keeps several canvases primed and ready in his Berlin studio. Because large works require discipline and sustained effort, Jenssen needs these smaller standby canvases as a counterbalance so as to maintain impulsiveness and a continuous movement and circulation in his studio.

Bright clear colours alternate with pastel tones, some colours retreat into the background, others rise to the front. Kaleidoscopic prisms alternate with quieter colouristic events. It is the art of a happy person.



The titles of Jenssen's works evolve slowly during the painting process. Sometimes the title seems to emerge by itself, leaping out from the work, sometimes it has to be ferreted out. The process of naming and collating their meanings is like the process of mixing paint: the smallest change can alter the final tone. Sometimes the artist is carried

away by the etymological dictionary into an endless chain of meanings and signification.

[http://www.onculture.eu/story.aspx?s\\_id=1215&z\\_id=8](http://www.onculture.eu/story.aspx?s_id=1215&z_id=8)