One ear to the ground and the other to the sky

CURATORLAB PRESENTATION Konstfack Library 17-18 May 2018 12.00-16.00 pm

Konstfack CuratorLab participant Madelene Gunnarsson is pleased to invite you to the presentation of her final project at Konstfack Degree Exhibition 2018.

Ulrik Samuelson, sketches for Vrinnevi Hospital, Norrköping. Image courtesy of the artist. THE HOSPITAL IS AN ARENA FOR A SCIENTIFIC TRADITION based on the quest for empirical methods and results. At the same time it houses deeply existential views and questions – here life can begin and end. Thus, it is a place that tries to find systems to grasp and explain human life yet simultaneously where we might encounter the most unexplainable. In this context, art has the potential to open up for meetings according to the viewer's emotional state at the moment: sensations that ascent to the surface in the form of an association, glimpses of recognition or an indeterminable gut feeling.

Madelene Gunnarssons final project at CuratorLab, Konstfack, provides an immersive meeting with public art at Vrinnevi Hospital (Vrinnevisjukhuset) in Norrköping through the voices of four artists.

ULRIK SAMUELSON / PIA SANDSTRÖM

Ulrik Samuelson in conversation with Pia Sandström about Ulrik Samuelson's installation in the Hospital courtyard and cafeteria next to the main entrance, from 1988. The work consists of stone objects, small plantings and seventy spiral-twisted columns that hold up a pergola. In the middle of the courtyard is a long sofa that also functions as a fountain, made of tile in a varied pattern. The installation in the cafeteria – now removed – consisted of trellises, mirrors and painted surfaces.

ULLA FREDRIKSSON / CECILIA EDEFALK

Ulla Fredriksson in conversation with Cecilia Edefalk about Ulla Fredriksson's permanent art work for the new emergency ward. "The Universe, All of space and time and its contents", from 2018, relates to the idea of celestial elements. The artwork consists of five parts: two video works "Sun" and "Moon", "Dreamplay", a seven meter long relief of wood and hard plaster, "Cloud" of white marble and "Space", a planetary system that spans between two facades.

One ear to the ground and the other to the sky takes its starting point in documented conversations between artists about permanent and site-specific art in the public space. The artwork, the space, the artistic idea and the work process are in focus, while audio recordings from the site are used as documentary and compositional tools to embody the social, spatial and ephemeral layers of the scene. The conversation is experienced through headphones / speakers / head-mounted displays. In collaboration with Lars Bomanson, producer & sound engineer. Photo: Johannes Karlebo. The two conversations on display at the exhibition are held in Swedish.

Biographies

PIA SANDSTRÖM

Born 1969 in Stockholm, lives and works in Stockholm. Pia Sandström studied at the Royal Institute of Art in Stockholm and at the Academy of Fine Arts in Helsinki. She works with text, audio, video, textile and spatial installations. Pia Sandströms ideas revolve around the concept of memory and unspoken knowledge. In her sound piece "Minnet Orden Makten", for Public Art Agency Sweden in 2015, the listener is moved back and forth between past and present, fact and fiction, body and thought, in historically loaded places in Kalmar and Öland.

ULRIK SAMUELSON

Born 1935 in Norrköping, lives and works in Stockholm. Ulrik Samuelson studied at Konstfack University of Arts, Crafts and Design and The Royal Institute of Art in Stockholm. His work combines painting, installation, sculpture, architecture and design. Since the 1960s Ulrik Samuelson has been constructing series of works that consciously comment on the relationship between art and the world around it. Ulrik Samuelson best-known public commission is his design for the Kungsträdgården subway station in Stockholm from 1977, which is located 35 meters underground.

ULLA FREDRIKSSON

Born 1972 in Norrköping, lives and works in Norrköping. Ulla Fredriksson studied at The Royal Institute of Art in Stockholm. She works with sculpture, video, light installations and photography. Ulla Fredrikssons work invites the viewer to a dreamy world of soft imaginative forms, which is characterized by both intensity and transience. She currently works with a public commission for a new train station called Vega located in Haninge municipality. The work consists of an intricate pattern that changes slightly in brightness during the day.

CECILIA EDEFALK

Born 1954 in Norrköping, lives and works in Stockholm. Cecilia Edefalk studied at Konstfack University of Arts, Crafts and Design and The Royal Institute of Art in Stockholm. She works with painting, photography, video and sculpture. Cecilia Edefalk often undertakes serial explorations of a single motif, experimenting with scale, duplication and installation. Her work explores historical memory, layers of time, space and the symbolic significance of light. She currently has a solo exhibition at the Carlier Gebauer Gallery in Berlin.

CuratorLab is a one-year international curatorial research course based at Konstfack University of Arts, Crafts and Design in Stockholm. With no fixed curriculum, every year it reinvents itself anew around a l eading topic, followed by a set of studio visits, seminars, lectures and trips, co-organised together with the participants.

Madelene Gunnarsson was part of CuratorLab 2016/17 and due to maternity leave she is presenting her project at Konstfack Degree Exhibition 2018.

A special thanks to the artists, Michele Masucci, Joanna Warsza, Ann Magnusson AM Public, Camilla Larsson, Region Östergötland, Susanne Rolf, CuratorLab class, Lars Jonsson.