

Making Matters Visible

16 January 2020, Jordbro



Muf architecture/art, *The Culture House in Front of Your Nose*, 2018. Photo: Elias Arvidsson

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Welcome to an afternoon with presentations and discussions at Jordbro Culture Centre where we bring forth and discuss learnings from Public Art Agency Sweden's government commission *Art is Happening* (2016–2018).

The symposium takes its point of departure in the commissioned ongoing evaluation and research that has been performed on the project, focusing on results and what we can learn. *Art is Happening* was an open call addressed to civil society that sought collaboration with groups and residents in the Million Programme housing areas throughout Sweden. An important element of the assignment was to carry out the work on the initiative of, and in collaboration with, various organisations in civil society. Many of the projects were developed in participation processes and by listening and ascertaining that which was locally most interesting to address artistically. One of the challenges was to create significant art projects involving different interests, agendas and perspectives. Another was to challenge common notions about who has the interpretative prerogative.

Researchers from different academic fields have been commissioned to follow, analyse and evaluate the project in the form of written reports. Hence, the symposium *Making Matters Visible* gathers citizens, artists, curators and architects from *Art is Happening* who, together with researchers, present their perspectives and make visible differing conditions in order to create public art with civil society. The moderator for the symposium and the panel discussions is Annika Wik, researcher and process manager for knowledge development in contemporary art.

The symposium is organized by Public Art Agency Sweden (Statens konstråd).

ART IS HAPPENING

In 2016–2018, Public Art Agency Sweden produced public art with a focus on the Million Programme housing areas, within the framework of the government commission *Taking Place* (Åga rum). In autumn 2016, 15 locations throughout the country were selected for Public Art Agency Sweden's

collaborations with civil society and local actors in the government commission *Art is Happening* (Konst händer). The projects were site-specific and realised in collaboration with residents, representatives of civil society, municipalities and other actors active in the areas such as non-profit organisations.

ONGOING EVALUATION AND RESEARCH

For the three-year government commission *Art is Happening*, Public Art Agency Sweden commissioned an external evaluation – a so-called *följeforskning* (commissioned research, henceforth: ongoing evaluation and research), which means that the evaluation process is procured and executed continuously throughout the project by an external actor. Ongoing evaluation and research help visualise important aspects for the commissioner, which may aid development of the project while it is ongoing and provide knowledge for future projects. The ongoing evaluation and research for *Art is Happening* was co-financed by Sweden's National Centre for Architecture and Design (ArkDes) and the evaluation was carried out continuously throughout the entire project by artist and researcher Monica Sand, previously employed by ArkDes as Head of Research. Furthermore seven external researchers were commissioned by Public Art Agency Sweden for shorter ongoing evaluation and research commissions within the project.

LIST OF ONGOING EVALUATION AND RESEARCH REPORTS, ART IS HAPPENING

Maktens väggar och möjligheten att skapa det som ännu inte finns (The Walls of Power and the Possibility to Create that which does not yet Exists), by Jonna Bornemark

En känsla av tillhörighet – att arbeta som curatoriskt team (A Sense of Belonging: Working as a Curatorial Team), by Henna Harri

Konst händer Hammarkullen: När konsten tar plats (Art is Happening Hammarkullen: When Art Asserts Itself), by Marcus Jahnke and Jenny Löf, RISE

Glas, dans och plats (Glass, Dance and Place), by Tor Lindstrand

Konst och demokrati – Representationsmakt (Art and Democracy: Representational Power), by Edda Manga

Tro, hopp och konst – Konst som politiskt verktyg (Faith, Hope and Art: Art as a Political Tool), by Monica Sand

Att hålla "både och" (To Maintain "Both... and"), by Sofia Wiberg

All reports are available (in Swedish) on the Public Art Agency's website publicartagencySweden.com

Programme

14:00–14:35

Welcome address

Sara Rossling, producer and co-curator, and **Annika Enqvist**, head of public programmes, Public Art Agency Sweden.

Thina Sparr, director Ung 137, Jordbro Culture Centre

Presentation of the government commission *Taking Place* (Åga rum) that *Art is Happening* is a part of

Henrik Orrje, acting director, Public Art Agency Sweden.

Introduction to *Art is Happening* (Konst händer)

Joanna Zawieja, architect, Public Art Agency Sweden.

Film screening A filmed documentation of the art work *Marmorlinjen* by artists **Anna Högberg** and **Johan Tirén** from *Art is Happening: Gamlegården*. Photography: Ricard Estay

14:35–15:20

Presentation *Art is Happening in Jordbro: Thoughts and Experiences of an Art Project*, **Göran Lidbrink**, project manager, Jordbro World Orchestra association (JVO).

Presentation *Power to Act*, **Jonna Bornemark**, researcher and philosopher.

Presentation *Touching Architecture*, **Katarina Bonnevier**, artist, architect, researcher and member of MYCKET.

Panel discussion with **Göran Lidbrink**, **Jonna Bornemark**, **Katarina Bonnevier** and **Joanna Zawieja**, moderated by **Annika Wik**, researcher and process manager for knowledge development in contemporary art.

15:20–15.35

Coffee and screening of the video work *In Purple* by **Johanna Billing** and **Mix Dancers** from *Art is Happening: Råslätt*.

15:35–16:20 (in English)

Video presentation *The Culture House in Front of Your Nose*, **Liza Fior**, architect, artist and partner of muf architecture/art LLP.

(the programme continues)

Presentation *Time, Place and Curatorial Practice*, **Peter Hagdahl**, Public Art Agency Sweden and **Marti Manen**, director of Index and former curator at Public Art Agency Sweden.

Presentation *A Sense of Belonging, Working as a Curatorial Team*, **Henna Harri**, researcher, curator and director of Photographic Gallery Hippolyte.

Panel discussion with **Peter Hagdahl**, **Marti Manen**, **Liza Fior** (Skype) and **Henna Harri**, moderated by **Annika Wik**.

16:20–16:30

Coffee break

16:30–17:20

Presentation *Creole Dramaturgy/If you would arrive in Hässelby in 100 years and it looked the way it does now, you would be able to detect the people living there 150 years earlier but all the traces in between would be erased*, **aghili/karlsson**, (Nasim Aghili and Björn Karlsson), artists.

Presentation *To Maintain "Both... and"* (Att hålla "både och"), **Sofia Wiberg**, researcher at the Department of Urban Planning and Environment, KTH.

Presentation *Artistic Intervention and Civic Engagement during the Restoration of Hammarkullen Public Baths* (Konstnärligt ingripande och samhällsengagemang under restaureringen av Hammarkullens offentliga bad), **Marcus Jahnke**, researcher and **Jenny Lööf**, researcher and project manager respectively, RISE.

Panel discussion with **aghili/karlsson**, **Sofia Wiberg**, **Marcus Jahnke**, **Jenny Lööf** and **Joanna Zawieja**, moderated by **Annika Wik**.

17:20–17:30

Closing remarks and thanks, **Annika Wik**, researcher and process manager for knowledge development in contemporary art, **Sara Rossling**, producer and co-curator, and **Annika Enqvist**, Head of Public Programmes, Public Art Agency Sweden.

17:30–

Dinner in the foyer, the discussion continues informally.

Biographies

AGHILI/KARLSSON

aghili/karlsson (Nasim Aghili and Björn Karlsson) is a duo based in Stockholm whose work addresses experiences of living in different forms of exile and being exposed to the dehumanisation of power. Their work thus often takes the form of healing rituals that reenact and enable grieving processes. The duo has worked together for 13 years; most recently in collaborative projects that explore/practice radical agriculture, civil disobedience and the aesthetics of sisterhood, in collaboration with activists and collectives whose work take their point of departure in various forms of decolonising practices.

KATARINA BONNEVIER

Dr. Katarina Bonnevier is an artist, architect and researcher based in Sankt Anna and Stockholm. In her practice of building and set design, art installations, performances, workshops, lecturing and writing she explores and transforms the built environment from feminist, queer and intersectional perspectives. She is a founding member of MYCKET collaborations – architecture, design and art. Together with MixDancers they created the work *Kepsen* in *Art is Happening: Råslätt*.

JONNA BORNEMARK

Jonna Bornemark is a researcher and professor of philosophy at the Centre for Studies in Practical Knowledge at Södertörn University. Her latest book is entitled *Det omätbaras renässans: en uppgörelse med pedanternas världsherravälde* (The renaissance of the unmeasurable: Getting even with the hegemony of the pedants) (Volante, 2018). Bornemark has previously published two monographs, 13 anthologies and numerous articles for Swedish and international publishers. In 2019, she received the Humanistpriset award. She contributes regularly to the programmes *Filosofiska rummet*, *Teologiska rummet* and *Kropp och själ* on Swedish Public Radio.

Research report: *Maktens väggar och möjligheten att skapa det som ännu inte finns* (The Walls of Power and the Possibility to Create that which does not yet Exist)

ANNIKA ENQVIST

Annika Enqvist is a curator and since 2018 head of public programmes at Public Art Agency Sweden where she also works with issues related to research, education and methodological

development. Co-founder New Beauty Council, 2007–2017, in charge of Applied Arts, Design and Architecture at Iaspis, the Swedish Arts Grants Committee, 2010–2018, curator and producer at Svensk Form, 1999–2007. Also active in the curatorial group S L A M, who, among other things, have curated *Beyond the Object* at Uppsala Art Museum, 2018 and *Field Station*, 2019. MA in Critical Writing and Curatorial Practice, Konstfack, 2009 and Cultural Studies, Stockholm University, 1994–1999.

LIZA FIOR

Liza Fior is an architect, artist and partner of muf architecture/art LLP – a London-based practice working in the public realm (including museums), and design advisor to the Mayor of London. The practice brings unsolicited research into every project, working with those who know a place in order to articulate the value of the existing before moving onto discussions of the future. Fior/muf was one of the artists working in *Art is Happening: Jordbro* which generated the artwork *The Culture House in Front of Your Nose*.

PETER HAGDAHL

Peter Hagdahl is an artist, curator, educator and researcher. He held the position of professor of art focused on new media at the Royal Institute of Art in Stockholm and was head of MejanLabs. In addition to his artistic practice, he has, since 2014, worked as a curator at Public Art Agency Sweden with a focus on building-related development and design projects. In 2016–2019, he was part of the curatorial team of *Art is Happening*.

HENNA HARRI

Henna Harri is the director at the Association of Photographic Artists and Photographic Gallery Hippolyte in Helsinki, Finland. She has years of experience in organising and managing in the field of contemporary art, and she is curious of how structures and agencies play together in and outside of institutions. During 2011–2016 she was the lecturer of Manging and Mediating Art, the Aalto University in Helsinki, and the co-director of a masters' programme of Curating, Managing and Mediating Art together with Professor Nora Sternfeld. In her current position she is co-directing Art Fair Suomi, an international contemporary art festival every second year in Cable Factory, Helsinki.

Research report: *En känsla av tillhörighet – att arbeta som curatoriskt team* (A Sense of Belonging: Working as a Curatorial Team)

MARCUS JAHNKE

Marcus Jahnke holds a PhD in Design from HDK at Gothenburg University. He is a senior researcher at RISE – Research Institute of Sweden and based in Gothenburg. RISE is an independent, state-owned research institute that provides expertise and more than a hundred test beds and demonstration environments for future-proofed technologies, products and services. Jahnke's research interests are norm-critical design and innovation, artistic intervention in urban planning and dialogue and co-creating in urban transformation contexts.

Research report: *Konst händer Hammarkullen: När konsten tar plats* (Art is Happening Hammarkullen: When Art Asserts Itself) (RISE)

GÖRAN LIDBRINK

Göran Lidbrink is a cultural studies scholar/ethnologist, writer and producer with an international and local focus. He is based in Stockholm and grew up in Jordbro where, in 1979, he co-founded Ormteatern – a local suburb theatre. Lidbrink is, among other things, project manager at the Jordbro World Orchestra association (JVO) that was instrumental in the establishment of Jordbro Culture Centre in 2011 and the initiator of *Art is Happening Jordbro* in 2016. Lidbrink's most recent article is "Flyg in en konstnär!" (Fly in an artist!) (*Stockholmstidningen*, 2019).

JENNY LÖÖF

Jenny Lööf is a project manager at RISE and based in Gothenburg. Her main area of expertise is knowledge transfer, learning and cooperation, often related to innovation, new ways of working in cities and municipalities as well as inclusive and co-creating design processes. Via RISE and in collaboration with Angered City District Administration, Lööf and Jahnke participated in a preliminary investigation of the Hammarbadet public baths that were threatened with closure. In a different role at a later stage, they followed and studied the baths when Public Art Agency Sweden elected to include the investigation in *Art is Happening: Hammarkullen*.

Research report: *Konst händer Hammarkullen: När konsten tar plats* (Art is Happening Hammarkullen: When Art Asserts Itself) (RISE)

MARTI MANEN

Marti Manen is a curator and the director of Index – Swedish Contemporary Art Foundation in Stockholm. He has curated exhibitions at Museo de Historia Natural (Mexico City), Aara (Bangkok), Sala Rekalde (Bilbao), Konsthall C (Stockholm), CA2M (Madrid) and Miró Foundation (Barcelona). In 2015,

he was curator for the Spanish Pavilion at the *Venice Biennale* and in 2019 for *Momentum 10* in Moss, Norway. In 2016–2017, Manen was curator at Public Art Agency Sweden for *Art is Happening*.

HENRIK ORRJE

Henrik Orrje is a cultural studies scholar. In 1990–1994, he researched film and video as an artistic means of expression. Subsequently he worked with exhibitions of contemporary art, design and architecture at the Swedish Institute, Svensk Form, NUNSKU, Moderna Museet and Sida. Since 2004, he has worked at Public Art Agency Sweden and has carried out research and development projects in public art as cultural heritage and exploratory projects in designed living environments. He is currently acting director of Public Art Agency Sweden.

SARA ROSSLING

Sara Rossling is a freelance curator based in Stockholm with a background in Art History and an MA in Curating Art. She works with exploratory art projects, residency programme and exhibitions in addition to freelance commissions for, among others, the Royal Institute of Art, Iaspis and Public Art Agency Sweden. She has curated exhibitions at, among others, the Royal Academy of Fine Arts (Stockholm), the Ottilia Adelborg Museum (Gagnef) and the biennial *Something Else* (Cairo) with Power Ekroth. Rossling is currently a consultant at Public Art Agency Sweden and co-curator and producer of the symposium *Making Matters Visible*.

SOFIA WIBERG

Sofia Wiberg is a researcher and teacher at the School of Architecture and the Built Environment at KTH, Stockholm. Her research is focused on situated and experience-based knowledge and her doctoral thesis, *Lyssnandets praktik – medborgardialog, icke-vetande och förskjutningar* (2018), explores the attitude to listening as a political practice. Wiberg has previously worked as process leader for citizen dialogue in various Swedish municipalities, which has resulted in the conclusion that there is much focus on "giving citizens a voice" but less focus on the habits, routines and practices that determine what and whom can be heard.

Research report: *Att hålla "både och"* (To Maintain "Both... and")

ANNIKA WIK

Annika Wik holds a PhD from the Department of Cinema Studies, Stockholm University (2001) where she has been teaching and working with research from 1996 to 2012. Currently she works

independently with research and development within the field of film and contemporary art. She is conducting projects for the Swedish Film Institute, Film Capital Stockholm and Public Art Agency Sweden. Wik is moderator for the symposium *Making Matters Visible*.

JOANNA ZAWIEJA

Joanna Zawieja is an architect working in the interface of art, architecture and urban planning. For Public Art Agency Sweden, Zawieja she carries out projects focused on strengthening our shared public places by testing new working methods and bringing to the fore social issues in urban planning. In 2016–2018, she worked with *Art is Happening* and is currently responsible for Public Art Agency Sweden's Urban Planning area of activities.

Organiser

PUBLIC ART AGENCY SWEDEN

Public Art Agency Sweden explores and develops the interaction between contemporary art and public spaces. Through site-specific art, temporary interventions, urban development projects as well as public programmes, discussions and publications, we strive to contribute to the development of both contemporary art and public spaces.

Venue

JORDBRO CULTURE CENTRE

Jordbro Culture Centre is located in the former Jordbromalmsskolan. When it was inaugurated in 1972, it was a modern compulsory school with the core idea that other activities would use the premises after school hours, such as cinema, theatre, youth recreation center and library. In 2010 the school was closed down and eventually transformed into a building for culture and independent associations. The house has been threatened with demolition since 2012, and today 2020 the decision is made that it will be demolished this fall. Jordbro Culture Centre has been a place of great creativity among the associations and activities that have been active and worked with youth, music, theatre, cultural events, sports, dance, civic service and with a social company that prepared lunches for everyone in the house. Temporary premises in Jordbro center await the associations and businesses that have decided to stay in Jordbro.

Film screenings

MARMORLINJEN

A documentation filmed by Ricard Estay of the art work *Marmorlinjen* by artists Anna Högberg and Johan Tirén from *Art is Happening: Gamlegården*. The work *Marmorlinjen – förbinder två platser och delar ett landskap*, is a 500-metre long and ten-centimetre wide marble line that runs through the area of Gamlegården. The project took its point of departure in the performance work, *Walk, Hands, Eyes*, a silent walk in the housing area with closed eye, by artist and choreographer Myriam Lefkowitz.

IN PURPLE

The video work *In Purple* by Johanna Billing and Mix Dancers from *Art is Happening: Råslätt* is a musical and visual story in which young people appear with their own voices. Billing's *In Purple* takes off with the local dance group Mix Dancers in Råslätt, Jönköping. The work addresses questions about their challenges as a non-profit association working for girls in a neighbourhood where the outdoor space traditionally has had a focus on activities gendered towards guys, and their thoughts on the future.