

Making body – Éva Mag

During the recent weeks, Art Lab Gnesta's great hall has been filled with the work of artist Éva Mag, a process that has been unfolding more and more for every day, and has changed the ambiance of the room in many ways. Now we present the exhibition Making body, in which materials like clay and textile formulate human physical and psychological experiences.

Together with the students Lea Sarocchi, Eric Seppas, and Linnea Nojdelijk from Vårdinge folkhögskola close to Gnesta, the artist first sew bodies out of different colored textiles, which then was positioned in the room and later photographed. After that the hard work of filling the bodies began: 2 tons of clay from Västergötland was transported to Gnesta and filled the textile bodies through a collective work. The expressions of the bodies transform when they adopt the three-dimensional form, suddenly more human character appear. The muddy clay tones down the gaudy colors; it smears and makes a mess, reminding more about the inherent behavior of the human body.

But what is a body? Throughout Éva Mag's work recurs the interest in contrasts: the clean and the dirty, the hard and the soft, the heavy and the light - everything that constitutes the human body but is also valued differently in society. Here lies a kinship with the artist Louise Bourgeois who during almost the entire 1900s formulated an interest especially the female body through her drawings and sculptures in different materials.

At Art Lab Gnesta Éva Mag has hung up some of the bodies in transparent silk, like cocoons that lifts them into the air. There, they rest in the thin fabrics, almost like enclosed in membranes - in the body, on their way to becoming body - or swept in on their way to their final rest. Around them, on the floor, are more bodies scattered, some dormant, some in more strenuous positions. The meeting with the installation offers certain ambivalence, and as much as the exhibition is a survey of active work to make the body, it can be seen as a reflection of contemporary visual culture. Humanity has always committed and endured wars and cruel abuse, but today more than ever images of its consequences are distributed around the world.

The great hall that for weeks now has functioned as the artist's studio, has very much influenced the work and how it is presented. The sacred atmosphere in here, thanks to the room's height and the large windows is further emphasized by the opening day's performance of a choir's performance of a short melody that has recurred throughout the production. The bodies and the carefully designed and attached hanging devices, makes the exhibition Making body to a particular type of room - a place to go to in order to meet and ponder what it means to be human.

Caroline Malmström, *curator Art Lab Gnesta*

The film about Éva Mag's work with the exhibition has been produced by Peter Olsén.

During the opening a song written by Peter Holm is performed. Choir: Cecilia Berlin, Matilda, Klangestam, Sanna C Sanndrömma, Chris Duraffourd.

Exhibition team: Erik Rören, Signe Johannessen, Caroline Malmström, Peter Olsén, Emanuel Hallklint och Mikael Jonasson.