

18 March – 7 May 2023

Marja-Leena Sillanpää was born in Finland and is based in Stockholm. By studying all forms of events and messages, the past is illuminated in interaction with a potential future in a frozen moment in what we call the now. It is about a presence that takes different artistic expressions. Marja-Leena Sillanpää took her MA in liberal arts at the Royal Institute of Art in Stockholm in 2004 and has been clairvoyant since birth in 1965.

7. *Det yrkesmässiga fisket i Vokalhavet, 2023*

Pär Thörn

Det yrkesmässiga fisket i Vokalhavet consists of seven risograph-printed A3 posters and a sound piece. The work is based on the graphic appearance and sonic qualities of vowels, and exists in a formal borderland between visual poetry, score and text-sound composition. Strong influences are from, among others, Lars-Gunnar Bodin, Åke Hodell and Steve McCaffery. At the finissage, Thörn performs a live version of the piece.

Pär Thörn (1977) is a writer, sound artist and fanzine editor, living in Gothenburg. Since his debut in 2002, he has published nearly twenty books and been translated into Danish, English and French, among others. Thörn has also appeared with readings and electronic music on stages in Sweden, Europe, Mexico and Vietnam.

8. *you me us them, 2023*

Jessica Williams

Jessica Williams new work playfully approaches polarization, language and online culture. The installation's various photographs and screenshot pop-up windows have been randomly collected by the artist on the internet. Here they are moved from the browser window to the window in the brewery's main hall.

In her artistic process, **Jessica Williams** (1986) collects objects from everyday life, which are then processed and refined. Through language, aesthetic collections, and tragicomedy, Williams' work examines themes such as identity and humans' relationship with nature, consumption, and technology. Collaboration across disciplines and media is an essential part of Williams' work. Although her practice is firmly rooted in self-publishing and experimental artist books, she also works with photography, video, sculpture, and VR.

Her work has recently been exhibited at the National Museum, The Spring Exhibition at Fotogalleriet, ROM for art and architecture, and Skiens Kunstforening. In addition, she has held workshops in risography and self-publishing at Henie Onstad, Nitja Centre for Contemporary Art, the National Museum, and Gallery F15. In 2016, she started publishing as Hverdag Books, which has since grown into a full blown self-publishing workshop. Since 2018, she has been involved in the Norwegian Risograph Association, which has arranged several exhibitions, lectures and workshops in risography.

Horizons

**Åsa Elzén, Saskia Gullstrand, Olle Halvars, Lisa Jeannin,
Marja-Leena Sillanpää, Pär Thörn, Jessica Williams**

The exhibition Horizons presents new works by invited artists, writers, clairvoyants and astrologists that visited Art Lab Gnesta during winter and early spring of 2023. All of them had a week each to work with our risograph - an environmentally friendly machine that produces diverse and colorful prints.

The risograph was launched in the 80's and was mainly used by schools, churches and political movements to spread messages cheaply and effectively. Each color is printed separately, giving an unpredictable, organic and tactile final result.

The horizon is the farthest point on Earth that we can see. It also describes the borderland between what we already know and what we cannot perceive. What knowledge is evoked between the hands of the artists and the dull thumps of the machine?

A multitude of flyers, fanzines, posters and artist's books has emerged, layer by layer, in the big exhibition hall. In the middle of the hall, the artists have each left a print, a multiple that the visitor is welcome to bring with them when they leave.

The exhibition is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 12-4pm.

Curator: Erik Viklund · Co-curator: Caroline Malmström · Exhibition room: Erik Viklund and Erik Rören
Communication: Emanuel Hallklint · Executive director: Maline Casta · Artistic leadership: Signe Johannessen, Caroline Malmström and Erik Rören · Exhibition hosts: Elsa Sederholm and Noam Kedem

1. *Knärot, 2023*

Åsa Elzén

Knärot, Creeping lady's-tresses (*Goodyera repens*), is an orchid that thrives in older moss-rich coniferous forests. Its Latin name 'repens' means creeping and refers to the way the orchid grows. The Creeping lady's-tresses is protected and red-listed as vulnerable, and has declined sharply in the last 30 years due to industrial forestry. Findings of the plant in reported deforestation notifications to Artportalen can lead to a ban of logging that specific forest. The Creeping lady's-tresses can thus be regarded as a kind of hero, or a small "forest guard". Recently, the forest industry has found loopholes in the law and the plant is no longer an obvious guarantee for the forest's survival.

The right photograph was taken in the forest at the nearest place from Art Lab Gnesta where finds of Creeping lady's-tresses have been reported to Artportalen. The plant and the photograph are printed with the risograph's help on black paper which is said to be "toxic-free" and eco-labelled according to the Swan, which guarantees that "at least 70% of the fibers used in the paper must come from sustainable forestry or from recycled paper" and according to FSC which guarantees "goods of wood that comes from responsible forestry." However, there is intense debate about what "sustainable" and "responsible" forestry actually means.

Even if the paper is "eco-labelled", it is very difficult to get clear information about where the content comes from, which forests were felled to create the paper pulp from which the paper is finally made and whether or not, for example, the Creeping lady's-tresses grew on the site. The work asks questions about how we as artists use materials, the ambivalence around our various desires and its impact on other life on earth. It is also a tribute to the Creeping lady's-tresses and invites awareness of the flower, its power and hopefulness.

Åsa Elzén lives and works since a few years in Näshulta, Sörmland. Among other things, she works with the concept of "fallow" in relation to temporality, the climate crisis, the decreasing biological diversity, and queer-feminist and more-than-human historiography. The work has related to the legacy of the Fogelstad group (formed in 1921) and their practice concerning ecology and resilience. She initiated *Skogen kallar - An infinitely contaminated collaboration or Dancing is a form of forest knowledge*, a public artwork in the form of a growing forest in collaboration with Malin Arnell, and is currently working with water flows within *Tänka med jorden*, in collaboration with Art Lab Gnesta, Nynäs Castle and Sörmland Museum.

2. *Memory milk, 2023*

Saskia Gullstrand

On a porch illuminated by the evening sun, a young woman tries to talk to her mother about the dark parts of her upbringing. But the mother has no memories to share. A comic short story about the power of the past and the fragments of life. About looking for answers in the breast milk, in the innermost, about trying to nurse memories from your mother's breast.

Saskia Gullstrand is a comic artist who makes dark and tender stories about love, siblings and violence. In her artistry, she experiments with different ways of using composition and montage to deepen the reader's emotional experience of a work. She is educated at the Comic School in Malmö.

3. *You talk about it all the time, I want to go there, 2023*

Olle Halvars

Olle Halvars has created a cut-out animation with an enclosed artist book, all printed on a risograph. The plot revolves around one person's naive quest for a higher insight and escape from reality. The belief in following the signs of nature. But a forest is just a forest, it attracts, destroys and eats.

Olle Halvars (1985) is a visual artist based in Gnesta. His works are a melting pot of fragments and self-insights that often express themselves with a blackness mixed with humor. The works are often based on graphics and various printing techniques, but are also further developed in other practices: painting, mural, sculpture or animation. Olle works intuitively in long (extended) processes where mistakes and side tracks become part of the work.

4. *Intergalactic News, 2023*

5. *Måndala, 2023*

Lisa Jeannin

I started publishing *Intergalactic News* in 2020. I make predictions using Vedic astrology to interpret the state of the world. I put up the news in town and got some subscribers who put up the news in their cities too. I like to get into a flow where I write and get news out quickly.

Måndalan is a circular calendar that creates understanding and reveals the connections by mapping the cycle of the moon and your personal cycle, so you can understand the patterns of each moon phase and gain insights into how you can work with the forces of the universe.

Lisa Jeannin was born in 1972. Selected solo shows: *Månljusfångaren* - Södertälje Konsthall 2022, *The Chironium* - Den Frie, Köpenhamn, 2018, *Le Sous-marin* - Kulturhuset, Stockholm 2014, *Beyond the Sea* - Malmö Konstmuseum 2010. Group shows: *Le Rond Universel* - Örebro Konsthall 2022, *Samfund, Satir och Surrealism* - SAK, Svendborg, Danmark 2021, "Den vita teatern", Norrtälje Konsthall, 2019, Busan Biennalen, Korea 2008.

6. *ETT URVAL BÖCKER UR ETT SPECIFIKT BIBLIOTEK, 2023*

Marja-Leena Sillanpää

- 18 risographs (original)
- 1 publication (edition 150)
- 1 presentation (physical books from Karl Schultz-Köln's library)

During my time in the house, I lived in Karl Schultz-Köln's old studio. The books were at arm's length, day and night for 5 days. On the top row thick dust had formed. The handling of the selection and documentation was done carefully, while the risographer worked efficiently. The first test prints had the dustiest feel of the books. There is dust in the air.

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