

Akershus Art Centre

English version

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Exhibition Programme  
2015



# 2015 | Programme

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16.01

–

08.02

Thomas Østbye

Gunnhild Torgersen

**Thomas Østbye** (b. 1979) has made a mark with powerful films and installations with a unique sensibility. Works like *Imagining Emanuel*, *Human*, and *1700 Islands* have combined examination of the documentary genre with contemporary political dilemmas. At Akershus Art Centre, Østbye will show the installation *Tid [Time]*, in which he challenges himself to look at the world more openly. On the one hand, simple, objective documentation, without narrative, theme or people. On the other, an intensely personal piece that does not hide behind this, but lends itself to a closeness and presence with an alternative eye.

**Gunnhild Torgersen** (b. 1985) works with sculpture, photography and installation. Through various materials like concrete, paper and metal she examines physical translations of information and the materials' own forms of language. At Akershus Art Centre, she will show a project consisting of a series of sculptures, as well as photographs, which each in their own way revolve around motion and limitation thereof. The sculptures – constructed as abstract blockades of steel – will, through their mobility solicit audience participation, and make possible a physical dialogue between work and observer. The exploration of nature as limitless, in opposition to our need for limitations, is brought up again in series of photos to be shown alongside.

*The exhibitions are curated by Rikke Komissar and Tor Arne Samuelsen.*



Thomas Østbye, *Tid, [Time]*, video still.



Gunnhild Torgersen, *A Shift Within a Limited Physical Space*.

16.01 – 08.02

## Dimensions

**Anne Thomassen, Tom Eidsvold Larsen, Ole Rosén, Toril Berg & Ebba Bring, Astrid Findreng & Grethe Fredriksen**

The concept of 'dimensions' entails a number of different properties and aspects. Dimensions can refer to the three axes along which we measure space (height, width, length), and more concretely, about whether a piece is two- or three-dimensional. Artwork may also have more immaterial dimensions, and one can talk about the aesthetic dimension of a piece of art.

This year, 'dimensions' is the starting point and theme of the exhibition produced by Kunstvisitten – a department at Akershus Art Centre. It will be split into four smaller exhibitions, through which we wish to invite reflection on the different dimensions within art. The exhibition's various parts will be touring health and welfare institutions in Akershus county in 2015.

*The exhibition is curated by Kunstvisitten by Kirsten Mørck, Marit Krokann Berge and Gabriella Gøransson.*



Tom Eidsvold Larsen.



21.02 – 29.03  
Zanele Muholi -  
The Art of Activism

Zanele Muholi (b. 1972) is an artist and activist from South Africa, who has raised eyebrows with her photographs and documentation of black lesbians, homosexuals and transsexuals. Despite South Africa becoming a democracy in the 1990s, it is still difficult to be openly lesbian or gay there, and within the Black African community, lesbians are seen as a threat to the gender roles in a society where women's primary role is having children.

Violence and threats are an everyday reality for many who come out, and the organisation Change.org has estimated that around 500 women are subject to so-called 'corrective rape' every year. According to Change.org, around 30 lesbian women per year are killed because of their sexual orientation.

On this basis, Zanele Muholi has chosen a demanding artistic project: to make different sexual orientations common.

Not everyone is equally enthused with her zeal, and in 2009, then Minister of Arts and Cul-

ture, Lulu Xingwana, left one of her exhibitions in protest. Muholi was presenting a photo series of lesbian Africans in intimate embrace. Minister Xingwana called the pictures offensive and immoral. At Akershus Art Centre, Zanele Muholi will have the run of the house, and through photography, video and installation, we will see both new and older work by the artist.

Muholi has participated in a number of large exhibitions, like dOCUMENTA 13 (2012), the 2013 Venice Biennale, and DakArt 2014. She is an honorary professor at the University of Arts/Hochschule für Künste Bremen in Germany, and has also won a number of awards, including the Prince Claus Prize in the Netherlands (2014) and the Carnegie Art Award (2013).

During the course of the exhibition, there will be debates, lectures, and a chance to meet the artist herself.

Please visit [akershuskunstcenter.no](http://akershuskunstcenter.no) for a more detailed programme.

*The exhibition is curated by Rikke Komissar, Liva Mark and Tor Arne Samuelsen*

17.04 – 16.05  
Dag Nordbrenden

Dag Nordbrenden (b. 1971) works with photos and video, and has made his mark as a strong photographer, with several large exhibitions under his belt. Nordbrenden will be showing a project from Brasil, depicting a dark side to the country's economic growth, which he has photographed from inside the walls of a Norwegian holiday community there. This is one of several building projects that ground to a halt due to financial dire straits and money-laundering scandals. The pictures dwell on the decrepit and incomplete aspects of an economic and architectural collapse, and shift between documentary reproduction and a more poetic exploration of formalist motifs.



Dag Nordbrenden, *Black Vultures*.

17.04 – 16.05  
Per Teljer



Per Teljer, *Voegelschen*.

Per Teljer (b. 1970) is a noted video and film artist, who has been concerned with subgroups, relations, identity and communication throughout his career. The tone of his films is often gloomy, with the aesthetics rendered in a dark palette. In his latest film *Tess*, we meet a couple in a relationship crisis. Slowly, the film develops a tragic farce, wherein the lack of communication and trust affects their relationship, and faith in the relation that they have both invested in crumbles. In the exhibition at Akershus Art Centre, new drawings will be presented, thus exposing another, lesser known side of Teljer's Art.

*The exhibitions are curated by Rikke Komissar and Tor Arne Samuelsen.*

05.06 – 02.08

## Social constructions



Haugen/Zohar Arkitekter, *Wooden Hammocks*.

A society is bound together by a number of constructions, visible as well as invisible, which all have different implications for our lives. Architecture is one form of social construction, in two senses: as a physical construction and as an immaterial construction that can bring people together through its potential uses.

Architectural firm Haugen/Zohar (HZA) has designed the new art centre, and their winning draft was called 'Open House'. Based on that draft, we have wanted to present Haugen/Zohar in a wider scope before the new centre is built. As architects, HZA are interested in the fact that architecture is bound to a specific place, drafted by and for humans. One of the core tenets of HZA is the desire to establish relationships between past and present, culture and memories, but most importantly, relationships between people, their stories, and their surroundings. HZA are interested in political, social, and environmental issues in society, and strive to convey that through architecture. Everything they do has a basis in empathy for society and people, and a notion of architecture serving a function beyond the intrinsic.

The architects will illustrate parts of their work and their take on the concept of social constructions.

*Haugen/Zohar Architects (HZA) is an Oslo-based office established in 2006 by architects Marit Justine Haugen (b. 1973) and Dan Zohar (b. 1972).*

05.06 – 02.08

Kristine Roald Sandøy

Christina Peel

Runa Vethal Stølen

Like architecture, art can also be understood as a social construction. We come together to experience. We have invited three artists who all work with architectural expression in various ways, be it through metal sculpture, ceramic wall installations, or less constructed objects suspended or mounted in a room. Participation is a key word, in regards to how we both move through the art and touch the objects.

**Kristine Roald Sandøy** (b. 1982) has master's degree in artistic metalwork, and works with sculpture and installation. For a long time, she has explored sculptures that centre on different points of balance. Her kinetic sculpture, *The Brazz Dream*, will be presented in concert with smaller pieces.

**Christina Peel's** (b. 1977) work is based on ceramics, and for this exhibition, she has deve-



Kristine Roald Sandøy, *The Brazz Dream*.

loped a shape that reflects itself mirrored. As part of the piece, her objects have a dynamic relationship with architecture, and adopt a dialogue with the space.

**Runa Vethal Stølen** (b. 1975) works with jewellery. Though practical objects, her objects still maintain a sculptural aspect, wherein they appear almost like three-dimensional drawings. The road from architecture down to jewellery by way of sculpture may seem long, but Stølen's little buildings work equally well as functional objects and parts of a more site-specific installation.

*The exhibitions are curated by Rikke Komissar and Tor Arne Samuelsen.*

14.08 – 13.09

## Svartjord: Nothing in Excess

The artist group Svartjord does not constitute any particular identity or collective, but functions as a nomadic, artist-run enterprise and platform, where new transformations can contribute to bring together and strengthen different players and their collaborators. Svartjord's projects are site-specific, and by exploring spatial conditions, they wish to seek out new territory for the

role of art in politics, society, and environment.

The name Svartjord [Mollisol] refers to the nutrient-rich soil found in the most fertile agricultural areas of the world. Each of Svartjord's projects will constitute an artistic ecosystem where the conditions specific to the site will provide the soil in which artistic work may flourish.

*Svartjord consists of Luca Andreotti (b. 1979), Siren Elise Dversnes Dahle (b. 1986), Mari Østby Kjøll (b. 1983), and Yola Maria Tsolis (b. 1981).*



Svartjord.



Jorunn Myklebust Syversen, *CYRK*, video still, 2014.

14.08 – 13.09

## Jorunn Myklebust Syversen

Jorunn Myklebust Syversen (b. 1978) works in the crossover between video art and movies, where the films are often somewhere between fiction and reality. Generally, she tries to question how, in communication, a sender uses devices to lead the receiver along certain lines, which seems very relevant in today's media-saturated reality. By more or less immersing herself in various subcultures, she examines how we, as people, experience reality differently depending on unique experiences and the culture in which we grew up. Syversen is particularly interested in how these circumstances affect the way in which we chose to live. Another topic she

explores is humanity's relationship with nature and how we choose to live with, outside of, or within nature.

A gloomy and somewhat dense undercurrent often marks Syversen's work, whether it explores the day to day of the circus, like *CYRK*, or disco and techno culture, like *Der Dunkle Mensch*. In her latest film, she has moved away from the seemingly glamorous worlds of the circus and the disco, to the more introverted and nature-oriented human, but without abandoning the refined aesthetics that characterise her work. The exhibition will present both new and old pieces.

*The exhibitions are curated by Rikke Komissar and Tor Arne Samuelsen.*



Ulla Schildt, *Lengselen etter det ubevisste landskap*. [*The Longing for the Unconscious Landscape*].

25.09 – 25.10

Ulla Schildt

In the exhibition *A Rare Visitor*, Ulla Schildt (b. 1971) will show a selection of works from zoological gardens and museums of natural history in Oslo, London, Dublin, Paris, Berlin, Helsinki, and Tallinn. The project was started in 2006, and has continued until the present day. At the centre of the project is an exploration of how we preserve and present nature in museums and zoos. What can these places tell us about our relationship to nature? The exhibition title is an allusion to mankind's alienation from nature and the consequences of that. How will the future look if we first and foremost experience nature in artificial environments? And how do we choose to present nature in a museum space?

25.09 – 25.10

Ilkka Halso

'Nature' is also a key theme in Finnish Ilkka Halso's (b. 1965) work, which cuts to the core of humanity's attempts to control nature. In large, constructed tableaux, we spy ultramodern depictions of the storage and communication of what nature is, tableaux where landscape elements like lawns, rocky hills, and trees lie for sale in fictional warehouses. Is this realistic future scenario? Here, we see nature turned into a commodity, and a paradoxical and humorous relationship between consumption and preservation arises.

Ilkka Halso, *Roundabout*.



25.09 – 25.10

## Salla Tykkä

Salla Tykkä (b. 1973) has gained renown for her video work, in which historical and psychological narratives play a major part.

Nature versus culture forms the premise of the film *Airs Above the Ground*, in which highly trained Lipizzaner horses from the Spanish Riding School in Vienna are contrasted with wild horses galloping free. 'Airs above the ground' is a reference to the horses' training, where they are taught various movements, one of which involves leaping and floating above ground for a number of seconds. This strict training has become an enduring symbol of humanity's desire to tame nature.

The work *Giant* portrays Romansch junior gymnasts. We see them train, and not unlike the strict way the Lipizzaners are drilled, one sense of how the human body can be worked and pushed to the utmost.

*Salla Tykkä has been noted for film and video work shown across the world. She participated in the 2001 Venice Biennale and a number of film festivals.*



Salla Tykkä, *Airs Above The Ground*, video still.

25.09 – 25.10

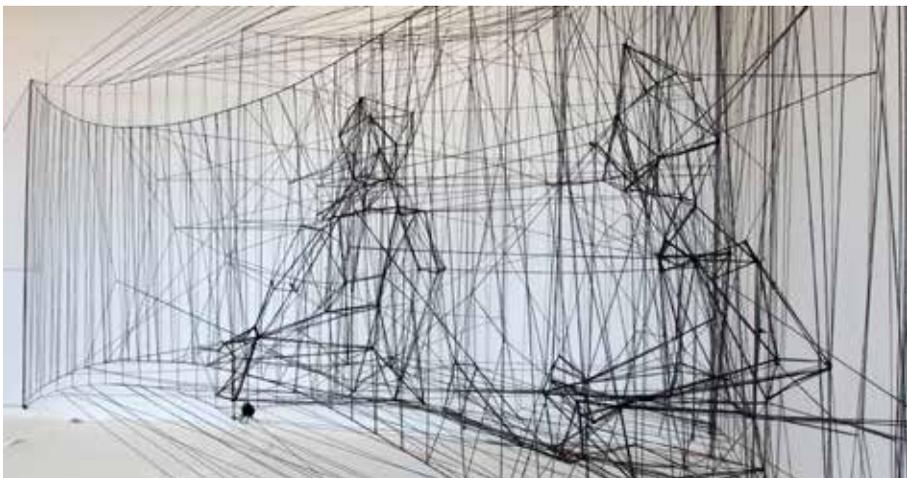
## Camilla Wexels Riser & James Moore



Camilla Wexels Riser and James Moore.

Once teacher housing, then a Nazi-occupied building during WW2, and later a police station, Storgata 4 and Akershus Art Centre's current rooms have a powerful history. Against that backdrop, Moore and Wexels Riser will bring forth a site-specific installation that also bears references to the other displaying artists' exhibitions. This will turn the cellars of the art centre into an arena for exhibition spaces and unpredictable processes. Camilla Wexels Riser (b. 1968) and James Moore (b. 1970) are behind the project, with both artists boasting numerous similar shows centring on sound and staging. They want to facilitate a surprising and sensually intense experience. The site's physical appearance and history will form the basis of exhibition, and the installation will be completed in collaboration with sound artist Morten Pedersen.

*The exhibitions are curated by Rikke Komissar and Tor Arne Samuelsen.*



Serhed Waledkhani, *Telt. [Tent]*, detail.

06.11 – 06.12

## Serhed Waledkhani

Through powerful and personal video pieces and installations, Serhed Waledkhani (b. 1989) shares his personal story of being a refugee from Kurdistan. His films often take the form of charcoal animations where the drawings themselves are key, and linger like memories of a dramatic escape. Nonetheless, the issues brought up in Waledkhani's work are universal. Where do we come from and where does one belong? In this exhibition, Waledkhani explores further, and will present a series of new pieces.

06.11 – 06.12

## Eirik Audunson Skaar

History and the memories one recall are also the crux of Eirik Audunson Skaar's (b. 1964) project. By way of sculpture, text, and photos, Skaar brings a war memorial from 1945 into the exhibition space. The memorial, which honoured the victims of one the greatest tragedies in Norway during the Second World War, was vandalised by Norwegian authorities, and later forgotten by a whole people. Today, the ruined memorial serves as a reminder of our shared history and our ability not to remember. The exhibition raises the question of what we should remember, what story is told, and how it should be highlighted.



Eirik Audunson Skaar.

| 06.11 – 06.12

| Vegar Moen

In his latest project, *Rosengård*, Vegar Moen (b. 1967) has photographed the multi-cultural area Rosengård in Malmö, Sweden. Originally a part of the so-called 'million programme' in Sweden 1967–1972, the goal of which was to build a million new apartments to increase living standards, Rosengård was planned as a modern city of the future. At first, only Swedish working class families moved in there. Today, Rosengård consists of approx. 24 000 people from more than 170 countries. 33% of them are under 20 years old, 86% are born to foreign parents, and over 50 different languages are spoken in Rosengård. Only 31% have permanent employment, and the population density is quite high compared to Nordic standards.

*The exhibitions are curated by Rikke Komissar and Tor Arne Samuelsen.*



Vegar Moen, *Törnrosen [Thornrose]*, 2014.

16.12 – 23.12

## Anarchist Christmas Exhibition

Akershus Art Centre wants to challenge traditional Christmas exhibitions, and so, we hereby declare participation in *Anarkistisk Juleutstilling* open to one and all.

Work must adhere to a limited format, the maximum size being A3 and possibly a frame for wall mounting, or a correspondingly small size for three-dimensional work. Participants are free to choose their own placement, and assembly/mounting is to be done by artists themselves. Each person may display up to three pieces.

The exhibition will last for one week, with sales off the wall.

We at Akershus Art Centre are excited for a Christmas exhibition with unforeseeable results, and hope that this year's present will be a little artwork!

(Pieces must be collected after the exhibition has ended, no later than 8 January 2016.)



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### PILOTGALLERIET [THE PILOT GALLERY]

is part of Akershus Kunstsenter, and responsible for the production and communication of visual art for the 'Cultural Rucksack' in Akershus. For more information, please visit: [www.dksakershus.no](http://www.dksakershus.no)

### KUNSTVISITTEN [THE ART VISIT]

is part of Akershus Kunstsenter, and responsible for the production and communication of visual art at health and welfare institutions in Akershus.

### KUNST PÅ VANDRING [ART ON THE MOVE]

is an exhibition project from Akershus Kunstsenter. A new exhibition is produced every year, and shown at various venues across the county. A programme for the upcoming exhibition is still in the works. Please visit: [www.akershuskunstsenter.no](http://www.akershuskunstsenter.no) for more information.

### THE ART SHOP

Our art shop has everything from crafts, such as jewellery, glass and textiles, to fair trade products and selected prints.

### THE READING LOUNGE

Our reading lounge has its own seating area with art-related books and magazines, and visitors may also enjoy tea or coffee here. The children's area offers kids a chance to unfold with colours and paper.

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Akershus Kunstsenter [Akershus Art Centre] is a centre for resources and services in contemporary art. We offer advisory services, appoint consultants to public projects, and actively cooperate with institutions on both county and regional levels. Akershus Kunstsenter is also a partner in several international projects.

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### **Akershus Kunstsenter**

Storgt. 4, Lillestrøm

Wednesday – Sunday 12.00–17.00

### **How to get there?**

From Oslo: take the express train bound for Dal, Eidsvoll, Årnes, or Lillehammer, and get off at Lillestrøm station.

[www.akershuskunstsenter.no](http://www.akershuskunstsenter.no)

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