

press release

We cordially invite you to the exhibition project BECOMING LANDSCAPE, a collaboration with Swedish Artist and Curator Anna Viola Hallberg/Stockholm.

## BECOMING LANDSCAPE

SOLO SHOW ANNA VIOLA HALLBERG  
INCLUDING WORKS BY AMI SKÅNBERG, OONA HYLAND, ANASTASIA  
ZHIKHARTSEVA, THIERRY MORTIER AND PATRIK QVIST

August 12 – September 22, 2023

- Opening:** **Saturday, August 12, 2023, 5-8pm**  
in presence of Anna Viola Hallberg
- Opening Event:** **Saturday, August 12, 2023, 5pm**  
*Suriashi for Bonn* with Ami Skånberg/Stockholm  
We invite everyone to join and participate in the slow walking performance with Dr. Ami Skånberg. We will start in front of the exhibition space.
- Reading (in German):** **Thursday, September 7, 2023, 7pm**  
*Body images – the female view* with Johanna Hansen/Dusseldorf, author, visual artist and editor of the magazine WORTSCHAU and Monika Littau/Bonn, author
- Artist Talk:** **Day not defined yet**  
Anna Viola Hallberg in online conversation with Ami Skånberg, Oona Hyland, Anastasia Zhikhartseva, Thierry Mortier and Patrik Qvist
- Opening hours:** Thursday and Friday 3:30pm – 6:30pm | Saturday 1pm – 5pm

Thanks to:



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The exhibition project **BECOMING LANDSCAPE** is starting our new exhibition season that addresses the manifold changes and upheavals that our societies are confronted with, and which repeatedly necessitate a realignment of strategies and actions. The term of the hour in this context is resilience. – But how do we become resilient?

DAS ESSZIMMER is convinced that only getting involved with the unknown, the unforeseeable can help to think in possibilities and not in problems and thereby alternative modes of action and interaction can be developed. Dealing with art, its methods and ways of thinking provides concepts to continue to act in situations of emptiness, constant change and the lack of stable reference systems. Artists are therefore the ideal guides in these processes, as they move on unfamiliar territory every day and are used to make decisions on uncertain grounds.

For the exhibition project **BECOMING LANDSCAPE**, artist and curator **ANNA VIOLA HALLBERG/SE** has invited artists she worked closely with during the last 2 years. – The title refers to *mental landscapes* and how, as artists, we can continue to work and create platforms where we can rethink the various systems, we are part of.

During 2020-2022 one hundred artists shared and explored one site in the Stockholm Archipelago (Björkö Konstnod, <https://bjorkokonstnod.se/>) with me. It became a transformative, dynamic space for art that engages with life and nature: a space for developing community and poetic investigations, seeking to explore and interpret possibilities beyond violence, algorithms, narrow-mindedness and repression by looking at asymmetries. – By doing this we changed a perceived way of efficiency, often associated with artist residencies.

We elaborated up on a new reference system based on care strategies, unfolding ways to share as a strong and generous act and through this act establishing a fabric - a landscape - that we all become part of.

The selected works for the solo show at DAS ESSZIMMER – space for art+ emerge at a meta level what could be perceived as gateways or thresholds between or with-in systems. The discourse, hence occasional specific geopolitical mentioning, lingers on and initiates a process where re-storying takes place and opens up for shared and reflective space and how possibly the *in-between* stories bring forward agency as the *re/de/un do* vulnerabilities and introduces a discussion on desire of being connected and how to orchestrate resistance and question what value systems we feed into.

Art thus becomes a site for elasticity, for critical dialogues, for doubt, for attempts for re-establishing a sense of direction or rhythm to un/de/re disengage.

## OPENING EVENT

### SURIASHI WALKING PERFORMANCE FOR BONN

Saturday, August 12, 2023, 5pm, with Dr. Ami Skånberg/Stockholm

AMI SKÅNBERG/Stockholm, PhD in Dance from the University of Roehampton, is a performer and artistic researcher. She is the current Head of M.A.D.E. - Master Dance Education at the Stockholm University of the Arts, and also works at the University of Gothenburg. She has co-chaired the *Nordic Summer University Study Circle of Artistic Research*. She is a board member of NOFOD (Nordic Forum for Dance Research), as well as a member of the Peer Review board of *Journal of Artistic Research*. She has held keynotes at Stockholm University of the Arts, Latvian Academy of Music and Dance, University of Philippines, Royal College of Art (UK) and University of Bologna.

Her research interests are practice-led and concern Japanese dance, screendance, gender codified movement practice, nonhierarchical treatment of global dance techniques, and auto-ethnographic accounts from within the practice. Ami creates stage work, dance films and documentaries about dance. A collection of her films are released by *Njutafilms*. In her PhD thesis on *slow walking* she researched on *Suriashi as Experimental Pilgrimage in Urban and Other Spaces*<sup>1</sup>.

*Suriashi*, is a Japanese walking practice, that translates as sliding foot. *Suriashi* is a specific gender codified walking technique in classical Japanese dance and theatre, and an important method for acting on stage. Gender is constructed physically through the positioning and molding of the body. The original practice is performed in the dance studio or on stage. Ami Skånberg asks whether *suriashi* also could be a method to act, as being active, or to activate, and temporally alter spaces outside the theatre; i.e. the practical application of this artistic practice outside the theatrical context.

This relocation brings a traditional form into new configurations, connecting to everyday practices and sites of resistance and performance. It also contributes to the burgeoning field of walking arts practice, bringing a Japanese dance-based practice into a dialogue with debates and practices of Western dancing and walking. *Suriashi* performed in urban spaces was able to unfold and identify new relations between aesthetic practice and politics, between movements and monuments in the city as a way to critique the unequal distribution of power, and by looking for new ways to protest/resist peacefully.

## READING (IN GERMAN)

### BODY IMAGES – THE FEMALE VIEW

Thursday, September 7, 2023, 7pm

With:

- > Johanna Hansen/Dusseldorf, author, visual artist and editor of the magazine WORTSCHAU and
- > Monika Littau/Bonn, author

In 2022, a special issue of the literary magazine WORTSCHAU was released in cooperation with the Wilhelm-Hack-Museum, Ludwigshafen/GER, with the focus on *body images (Körperbilder)*. 27 female authors wrote about ten works by visual artists (including Max Pechstein, Pablo Picasso, Allan Jones), all of which showed the male view of the (often female) body, reflecting this view from a female point of view.

Johanna Hansen and Monika Littau were part of this project. They will read their and other literary reactions to the body images, which are shown as projections parallel to the reading.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-29991-9\\_10](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-29991-9_10)

## ANNA VIOLA HALLBERG

Anna Viola Hallberg's work as artist/curator interacts with specific communities, while addressing social or political contingencies. Her methodology: narrations of video, sound, photography, and text brings forward a discussion of the documentary of experience, remembrance, and emotions rendering collective memory/affect and work for social justice. Hallberg is the director and co-founder of the art center BKN in the Northern Stockholm Archipelago/SE where she has a fellowship (2020-23).

Her curatorial practice in Sweden includes; the outdoor exhibition TRICKLE - *Art in The River in Norrtälje* (2023), *The Sea That Surrounds Us*, Bygdegårdarna Stockholm (2022), *Distancio*, Region Jönköping (2017-21), *CityArtLab Mariestad/Minsk* (2010-11).

Hallberg was the co-founder of the Residency Program at Skövde Art Museum (2014). In addition she exhibited the collaborative work *State of Mind* for 10 years (Sweden, Russia, Belarus, Austria, Ukraine and US). She has held keynotes at numerous institutions among them Srishti Institute of Art, Design and Technology in Bangalore, University of California at Berkeley and Santa Cruz as well as at One Archive/University of Southern California in Los Angeles, Moderna Museet in Stockholm, School of Photography in Moscow, Lisbon University and Baltic Museum Network in Novi Sad. Hallberg has a Msc in International Museum studies at University of Gothenburg.

## OONA HYLAND

Oona Hyland is a visual artist and a recent graduate with a MA in art research and collaboration from IADT in Dublin (2022) and an Mfil in Irish Art History TCD (2017). She is currently working out of Dublin. She received *The Emerging Artist Award* from DLR, Dublin (2022). Hyland represented Ireland at the *Onsaemiro Project*, a research and exhibition in the Joint Security Area between North and South Korea in 2019 and the Sao Paulo Biennale event *Beyond the Horizon* in 2018, the LAF17 Festival France and in 2016 participated in *Patrons Prizes Paradigms*, *The Ernie O Malley Art Awards* Ireland.

Hyland studied Cinematography at BCFE Dublin. Hyland was elected to The Royal Society of Painter/Printmaker in London (2021). She is a member of Graphic Studio Dublin and 9 Dragonheads. For 17 years she founded and managed the fine art printworkshop, Clo Ceardlann na. For *Becoming Landscape* Hyland is represented with *Touching Time* a collaboration with Hallberg

## ANASTASIA ZHIKHARTSEVA

Anastasia Zhikhartseva graduated from Saint Petersburg Academy of Arts in 2021 with specialization in graphics and printmaking. In April 2022 due to personal and political reasons she moved to Sweden. Her initial residency was with BKN followed by SWAN emergency residency. Now Zhikhartseva lives between Sweden and France.

In her current artistic practice, she comments up on her personal experiences of oppression. Medias include painting, drawing, sewing and performance (both in front of camera and as interventions) For *Becoming Landscape* Zhikhartseva is represented with the drawing *OMOH* Russian riot police

## PATRIK QVIST

Patrik Qvist is a Stockholm-based artist with a background in architecture and Land art. He works in a variety of media and has primarily been engaged with topics that relate to climate change and the environment over the past 10 years. Qvist's work is often text based and operates in the space between public and private space.

For *Becoming Landscape* Qvist is represented with *Attempt at Ambition*.

## THIERRY MORTIER

Thierry Mortier works both as an independent visual artist (BE/SE) as well as a semiotician. For the election year 2022 in Sweden Mortier initiated *KVADRENNALEN* as a response to political threat.