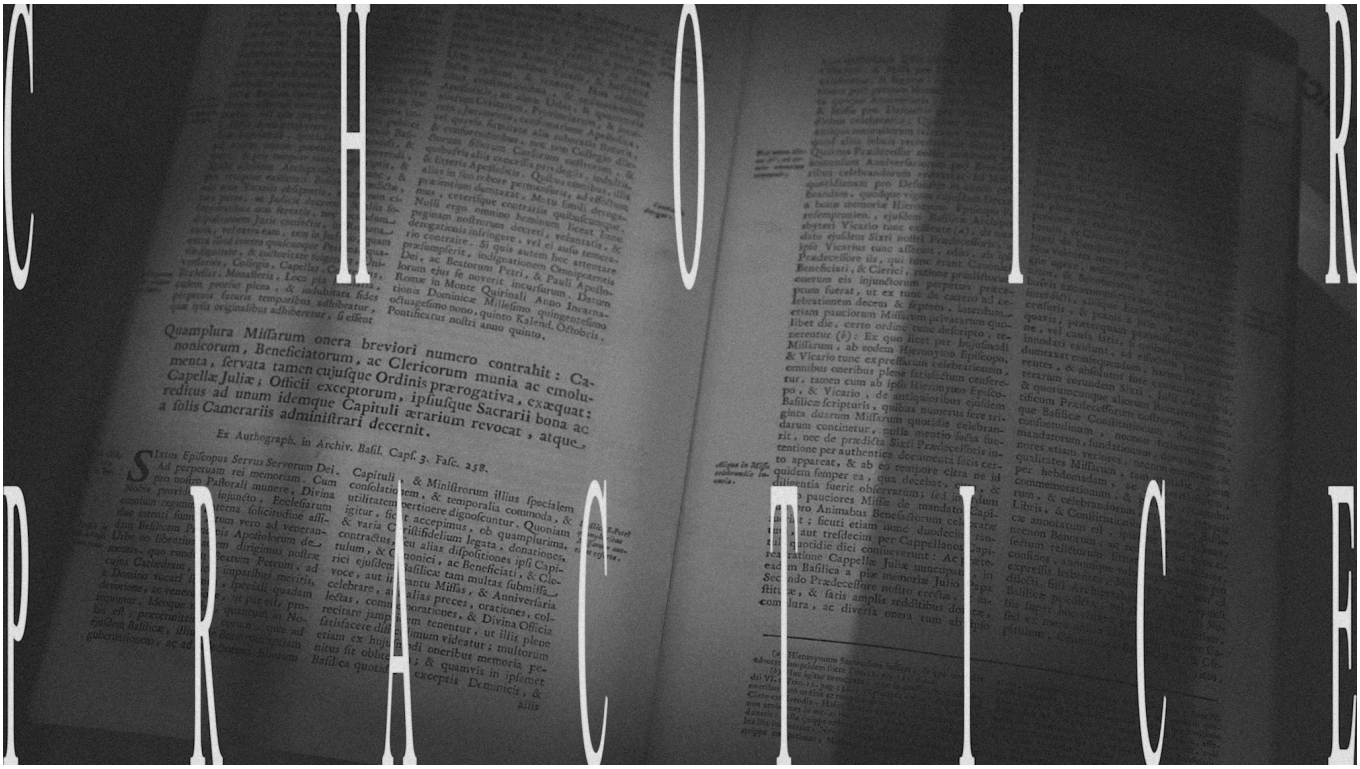
Index

Upcoming exhibition – Ruby Nilsson: RECANTATION
Opening Thursday 10 September, 17:00-20:00

Invitation to press preview: Thursday 10 September, 11:00-12:00
RSVP



Still from Ruby Nilsson, *Recantation*, 2026 (see below for full credits)

Welcome to the **press preview** for *Ruby Nilsson: RECANTATION* and *September Sessions* taking place at Index on Thursday 10 September, 11:00-12:00.

RECANTATION transforms Index – The Swedish Contemporary Art Foundation into a ritualistic setting for Ruby Nilsson's new video work of the same name. Nilsson confronts visitors through a grim economic science fiction, a worldbuild that explores a compromised and uncomfortable future of transsexual labor. Here, the artist follows the dark poetics of trans misogyny and unleashes it in all its unsettling and amoral glory; a move that can be read as a critique of what she regards as deeply ingrained social and cultural demands on trans artists to produce autobiographical works with an impossible moral high-ground.

The exhibition at Index is in some ways a conceptual continuation of Nilsson's recent host-assisted solo *RESPAWN*, presented at Inkonst, Malmö in February 2026. Of the similarities, the artist states that "both of the works sardonically undertake transsexual embodiment as an abomination and translate sexual

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Index

biology as a potential site of supernatural horror." The invitation to create a new work for Index necessitates a shift from performance and the context of the stage towards a dramatisation of the exhibition space – opening up possibilities for Nilsson to play with dramaturgy through a different set of spatial, visual, textual and temporal parameters. She invokes a dystopian premonition that weaves together inspiration from historical references including medieval witch trials, religious symbolism, mystical confessional literary modes and the strange convergence between the nano-languages of trans and looksmaxxing communities.

A recantation is a public disavowal of a previously stated belief. Its Latin root means to "sing again" indicating the performative power of public utterance. As the title of Nilsson's solo exhibition, *recantation* refers to a renunciation of performative gender visibility politics. In times where systemic attacks against the material needs of trans women are being made, Nilsson uses the exhibition format to investigate possible consequences of disavowal of earlier belief and community, as well as the need for something else to believe in.

Worldbuilding is a crucial part of Nilsson's overall artistic practice. The world does not appear directly from pure fabulation, but is crafted into existence through multiple references across temporalities. A reshuffling of time and recasting of references – historical precedents, the current moment, speculative futures – produces a deck of cards to be dealt anew. Negotiating between fiction and factual history is a working methodology for Nilsson's worldbuilding – a way to "underpin [her] own fictioning" – using history as a tool to look ahead, inventing sources to speculate and extrapolate timelines from existing tendencies in the current moment.

From an institutional perspective, exhibition making is also a form of worldbuilding. *RECANTATION* can be read as a challenge to the oft-perceived neutrality or contextual vacuum of the "white cube" gallery space – instead incorporating elements of the "black box" or theatre, to employ theatrical and dramaturgical devices that support a suspension of disbelief – and resist demands on the work to provide answers. The installation asks of the visitors the same suspension of disbelief: when you enter this room, these conditions are the truth.

Ruby Nilsson (SE, b. 1993) is an artist and writer whose work explores how sexual difference is staged through aesthetics of enmity. Nilsson's work spans performance, video installation, curation, and writing. Her projects unfold as extended series of intricate worldbuilding that together operate as closed systems of investigation, often expanding and evolving with each new installment.

Recent projects include the host-assisted solo *RESPAWN*, presented at Inkonst (Malmö), and the ongoing performance project and curatorial initiative *Center of Unseen Trans Survival* (*C.U.T.S.*) (2025), presented at My Wild Flag (Stockholm) and Warehouse9 (Copenhagen). Earlier works has also been shown at institutions and venues including Göteborgs Konsthall (Göteborg), Norbergfestival (Norberg), Turteatern (Stockholm), Skånes Konstförening (Malmö), Konsthall C (Stockholm), Rewild (Copenhagen) and

Index

Fylkingen (Stockholm). Nilsson is educated at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts. Her writing has been published in journals including Bastard and Paletten Art Journal.

Please contact Jasmine Hinks (details below) to confirm attendance at the press preview, arrange an interview with the artist, and for press material related to *RECANTATION*.

More information can be found on Index's website.

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*Full credits for the video work:

Recantation (2026)
Video installation
Duration: 30 minutes

Video credits:
Written and directed by Ruby Nilsson
Animation: Jacob Habinc
Color grading: Daniel Pehrson
Sound design: Hannes Ferm