

Combined exhibition and performance at Århus Kunstbygning

Esther is crawling

Opening May 1st, at 8 pm in Århus Kunstbygning, J.M. Mørks Gade 13, 8000 Århus C

Århus Kunstbygning presents the combined exhibition and performance *Esther is crawling*. The project is a non-traditional collaboration between artists from both stage and visual arts, with participating artists from Denmark and abroad.

In *Esther is crawling* the concept of reality is challenged. The interactive exhibition and performance frames reality as a subjective choice rather than a general and static phenomenon.

Visually, the project is constructed around a spatial landscape – an island containing abstracted everyday objects and forms. On this island you encounter a “listening tree,” with audio descriptions presenting different versions of the landscape, a growing and shrinking tree that reacts to viewer interaction, and a wall of “reality” labels, which the audience is invited to take with them and attach to what they consider suitable places.

During the evening the landscape becomes activated by two dancers, video components, light and sound. Audience members are placed around the island and, because of the intimate space and the piece’s format, the audience is limited to 20 viewers per evening.

Esther is crawling can be experienced both as an exhibition and as a performance, and shows how art forms and artists can work across borders of both art disciplines and countries.

The project is supported by The Danish Art Council and Århus Kommune, the Fund for Cultural Development, and the Culture and Citizen Service, with materials provided by Ferrotec Corp.

You can find more information at:

www.estheriscrawling.com and at <http://www.aarhuskunstbygning.dk/>

The exhibition of *Esther is crawling* is open during museum hours from May 2 to May 17, 2009. Performances of *Esther is crawling* will take place at 8 pm, May 2-3, May 5-10, and May 12-17.

For more information, contact Pernille Lyngsø at pl@aarhuskb.dk or by telephone +45 86 20 60 53.

Best regards,

Århus Kunstbygning

More Information on *Esther is crawling*:

Esther is crawling is an international cross-disciplinary project which functions as an exhibition during the day and as a performance at night. Although the project was initiated by choreographer Emma Nordanfors, the project's final concept and form was developed in collaboration with the project team. The project's artists include visual, media, and performing artists from both visual and stage art disciplines.

The Project Team includes:

Dancers: Carolina Bäckman and Pontus Pettersson

Set-design: Ida Marie Ellekilde

Media artist: Lucy Hg

Choreography: Emma Nordanfors

Project Consultant: Karina Dichov Lund

Light Design: Morten Ladefoged

Project Consultant: Louise Witthöft

Project Intern: Linnea Lind

Exhibition and performance period: 2. – 17. May 2009

Emma Nordanfors

Emma Nordanfors works as a choreographer and teacher. Emma Nordanfors was educated at the National School for Contemporary Dance (2002). Since 2002, she has choreographed performances in Denmark and abroad. Her projects have been performed in Scandinavia, Europe, USA, and Australia. Emma Nordanfors is part of the choreography collective E.K.K.O, along with dancers/choreographers Klara Elenius and Karina Dichov Lund. Founded in 2003, E.K.K.O is dedicated to creating multi-media projects that mirror the time we are living in. <http://www.ekko-project.net>

Lucy Hg

Lucy Hg is a media artist based in Los Angeles, where she works with the art collective The League of Imaginary Scientists, conducting experiments and building participatory mega-media installations. Lucy Hg received her MFA in Multimedia from Claremont Graduate University (2001), after which she co-founded the Institute of Arts and Multimedia at Los Angeles Mission College. Interactive experiments by Lucy Hg and the League exhibit globally, including in Australia, Asia, North and South America, and Europe. <http://www.imaginaryscience.org>

Ida Marie Ellekilde Set designer **Ida Marie Ellekilde** was educated at the Danish National School of Theatre (2003). She has since been working as a set designer and costume designer in Denmark. In 2006 she made the set design for the acclaimed production of *West Side Story* at Østre Gasværk Theatre, for which she received a Reumert Talent prize the same year. Ida Marie Ellekilde has also worked at Århus Teater, Mungo Park, Plan B, Teater X, and with choreographers Martin Forsberg, Tali Razga, and the choreography collective E.K.K.O.

Karina Dichov Lund was educated at the Danish National School for Contemporary Dance (2002) and is working as a choreographer. She is part of the choreography collective E.K.K.O. Karina Dichov Lund also works as an assistant and consultant on stage productions and has been a choreography and director's assistant to director Kamilla Wargo Brekling.

Louise Witthöft

Louise Witthöft was educated at the Danish Design School (Department of Spatial and Furniture Design). She currently works as an independent curator and exhibition designer in Berlin, incorporating exhibition design as part of her curatorial practice. Her exhibition strategies are based on the trans-disciplinary connections between art, design, critical theory and art history.

Carolina Bäckman

Carolina Bäckman was educated at the National School for Contemporary Dance in Denmark (2003). She has since been working as a dancer, teacher, and choreographer. She has worked with, among others, choreographers Ari Rosenzweig, Klara Elenius and Tina Tarpgaard. During spring 2009 Carolina Bäckman was choreographer for the performance *HemLika Utkanter* with the Swedish company Nomo Daco, which premiered in Skellefteå on April 11th.

Pontus Pettersson

Pontus Pettersson received his education at the National School for Contemporary Dance in Denmark (2007). He has since performed at the National Theatre in Stockholm in collaboration with the Israeli company Batsheva, and has toured with the performance *Kamovot*. Pontus Pettersson has also worked with choreographers Linda Forsman and Audur Bjarnadottir, and has performed his own solo works at dance festivals.

Morten Ladefoged

Morten Ladefoged received a BA in dramaturgy and in light design from the Danish National School of Theatre. Since 1999 he has directed the light design of many productions in Århus throughout Denmark. He works with a variety of stage forms, including theatre, opera, performance, dance and puppet theatre. He has worked with, among others, Refleksion, Thomas Trier, Isabelle Renaud, Cafe Teatret, Svalegangen, Kaleidoskop, Art On Stage, Århus Theater and Annika B. Lewis.