

The Maria Bonnier Dahlin Foundation annually awards grants to young artists to support and promote their work. As part of the grant, an extensive exhibition is produced at Bonniers Konsthall where their works are shown to a large audience, often for the first time. The 2024 grant recipients explore in their artistry the human relationship to the world around them through sculpture and installation. They share an interest in architecture and a fascination with found objects. Anastasia Savinova transforms these materials into unique sculptural constructions that reflect on our ecology, while Erik Thörnqvist explores how abstract ideas and ideologies can take physical form through objects and social structures.

Anastasia Savinova (b. 1988) explores humanity's deep connection with nature by combining natural and industrial materials, to create a dialogue between the organic and the constructed. Her art highlights the delicate balance of ecosystems – in a time of ecological crisis – and focuses on co-existence, where different life forms and materials are intertwined to express both fragility and beauty. Through this working method, she blurs the lines between content and form, demonstrating that content is not only expressed through its medium, it can also emerge out of it.

Savinova's fascination with the life-giving power of nature forms the foundation of *Geosmin* (2022-2024) highlighting the 'dark, wild and life-giving energy of the earth' through sculptures and drawings reminiscent of seeds or cocoons. Through her choice of materials and forms, she emphasises the vitality of nature and its capacity for regeneration. The title of the work, Geosmin, refers to the chemical compound that gives rain and beetroot their earthy scent – a scent that, like our relationship with nature, is both familiar and difficult to define.

*In Dialects of the Deep* (2023), Savinova explores the relationship between humans and the sea, focusing on the endangered cod ecosystem. Using found materials such as old fishing boats and glass floats, she creates sculptures that resemble fish bodies and fish eggs. The installation combines sculpture and sound to provide an immersive experience, highlighting the otherwise invisible sounds of the underwater world, where over half of the fish species communicate. In collaboration with a sound artist and a marine biologist, the work pays special attention to the mating sounds of cod, highlighting both the beauty and vulnerability of the sea – in line with Savinova's theme of endangered ecosystems.

### **About Anastasia Savinova**

Anastasia Savinova graduated with a Master's degree in Fine Arts from the Academy of Fine Arts at Umeå University in 2022. Her artistic practice revolves around places, ecologies and the relationship of humans to the more-than-human world. She explores how everything is intertwined and how we humans constantly appear as part of something bigger. Her installations often consist of different elements: sculpture, video, sound, found objects, drawing – and recall multi-species habitats. She conjures up images of both earthly and

otherworldly creatures, weaving together natural and industrial materials, from household objects to large boats, plants, feathers and shells. Her works address the beauty and sublimity of the world, intimate connections between organisms and the fragility of ecosystems in the age of mass extinction. Anastasia Savinova is represented in the collections of Moderna Museet and KIN Museum of Contemporary Art, several regional and municipal collections in Sweden and in the collection of Skrei Museum in Norway. She is currently based in Umeå.