

# podium

## *Trait d'union-Hyphen*

Romane Claus, Eugene Sundelius von Rosen, Alice Slyngstad, Theo Ghiglia  
and Max Ockborn.

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All images: Erik Mowinckel

Five artists, connected by proximity yet shaped by different linguistic realities, come together in the exhibition *Trait d'union – Hyphen* (in Norwegian, *bindestreke*). Here, they create a fluid interplay of sentiment, and their own grammatically precise yet distinct syntactic aesthetics. The participating European artists present works that embrace imperfection, forming a kind of worldly cartography of language. Moving fluidly between prefixes and suffixes, both they and we explore time—future and past—as something simultaneously hypothetical, mundane, and magical.

For example Romane Claus' *Bad Souvenirs* series is inspired by the trinkets tourists bring home from exotic travels in search of a unique and humorous gift. Dubbed "bad" souvenirs because they are ethically irresponsible. Or in Alice Slyngstad's *Flare Demure* that reflects on digital presence and bodily perception whereas Alice explains: my friend always calls me the *lily of the valley* when my upper body is bent over my phone while walking home at night. Making myself available through a multitude of digital channels, my face lights up, faded in and out by the steady pace of my fast walk. Further in Théo Ghiglia's works, they unfold like a game in which he gradually invents the rules. They appear as almost magical objects, totems crafted on the margins of a society whose decline remains muffled.

The exhibition is curated by Hedda Grevle Ottesen.

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**Alice Slyngstad** lives and works in Oslo. Slyngstad's works comprising text, sound, video, installation and performance has recently been on show in solo and group exhibitions at Kunstraum Niederösterreich in Vienna (2024), Vleeshal Center for Contemporary Art in Middelburg (2022), HetHEM in Zaandam (2021), and UKS in Oslo (2023). Their performances has been presented at various institutions including Weld, Stockholm (2024), Bodø Biennale (2020), EYE Filmmuseum in Amsterdam (2020), Kunstneres Hus in Oslo (2020), and at Les Urbaines in Lausanne (2019). Slyngstad studied at the Sandberg Instituut in Amsterdam and at the Oslo National Academy of the Arts.

**Max Ockborn** born 1983 lives and works in Malmö. In his works, he explores life, existence, and the ways people communicate. Ockborn uses found materials and various narratives in his human-like sculptures, paintings, and video works. Together, his works interact with one another. Ockborn's works have been exhibited at Malmö Konstmuseum, Skissernas Museum, Ravinen Kulturhus, Gislaveds Konsthall, Fullersta Gärd, Galerie Leger, Alta Artspace, Bonniers Konsthall, IASPIS, Galleri Nicolai Wallner, Kalmar Konstmuseum, and Lumiar Cité. He was awarded the Barbro and Holger Bäckström Scholarship in 2022. He has also created public artworks at Selma Lagerlöfs Torg in Gothenburg and in Bredäng, Stockholm.

**Eugene Sundelius von Rosen** born 1991 is an artist and poet based in Stockholm. His work is invested in layers of fiction, images, language and atmosphere in relation to a poeticized or aestheticized being-in-the-world. Environments and places – either depicted or alluded to – make up large parts of his work – rendered both scene, memory, surface, vantage point and image. He holds an MFA from the Royal Institute of Art, Stockholm.

**Romane Claus** born 1994 is a multi-disciplinary artist based in Antwerp. She makes three-dimensional miniature sculptures that fulfill a role as 'props'. These props can be photographed, become the scenery of a stop motion set or serve in a (multimedia) installation. The resizing of these objects creates a deformation: a new narrative emerges where fiction is hard to distinguish from reality.

**Théo Ghiglia** born 1991 in Neuilly-sur-Seine France lives and works in Paris. Ghiglia graduated from Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs in Paris in 2019. He has exhibited at major institutions such as Musée National d'Ar Moderne/Centre Pompidou and Fondation Ricard in France.