

Tori Wrånes The Festival Exhibition 2025 *Moon Bag* 22 May — 17 August 2025

Bergen Kunsthall is proud to present Tori Wrånes as this year's Festival Exhibition artist. The Festival Exhibition is considered one of the country's most important solo exhibitions, and has been running annually since 1953.

The title "Moon Bag" refers to a type of bag one carries whether you are on a voluntary or involuntary journey. The term also points to a kind of residual holding; the very last thing you hold on to – a fragile form of hope. Perhaps we step into the bag itself when we enter the exhibition? Or is it a kind of lunar landscape, a wave or a giant teardrop?

The exhibition transforms Bergen Kunsthall's main galleries into an extensive installation – a living stage or an endless concert. Wrånes' work revolves around power structures and relationships, and in "Moon Bag" this is a central pulse– structures are unfolded, dichotomous contrasts are challenged, proportions and power structures are explored and the unpredictable is embraced.

With the performance *Retro Katt* during the 2024 Bergen International Festival, Wrånes introduced a new universe in collaboration with Carte Blanche, a universe that is now being further expanded in the galleries of Bergen Kunsthall. Monumental oars bore through the walls as if the entire building has been launched at sea, but without telling us who is steering, or where we are going. A shifting soundscape drifts through the galleries.

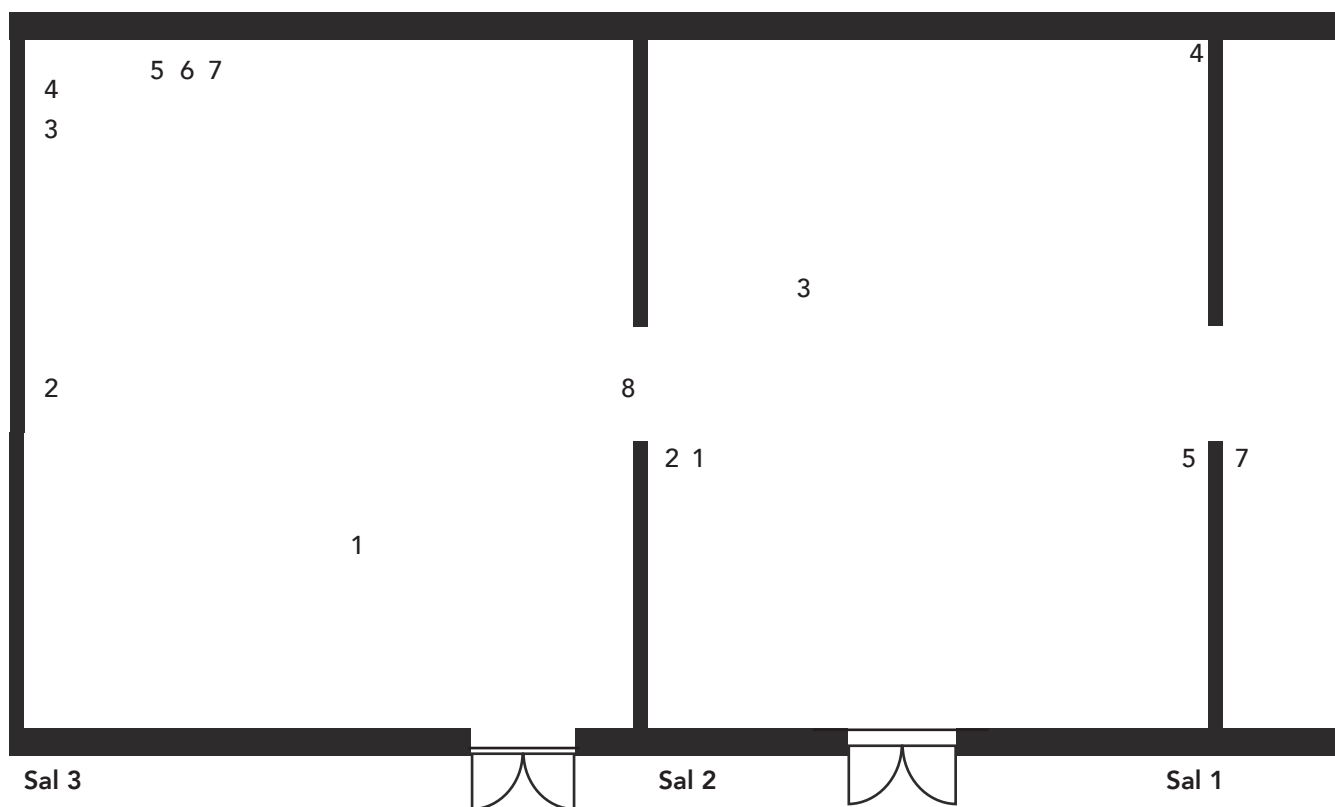
As a contrast to the enveloping spatial elements – the carpet, the sound and the oars – figurative works emerge with another kind of intimacy. A series of works on canvas (*Fork and Fork*, and *Knife and Knife*, and *Spoon, Spoon and Spoon*) displace binary norms and expectations. A series of sculptures bind together materials and forms, suggesting a psychological fusion – or entrapment. In the work *Mothers and Child 2*, one person is lodged inside another. Is it protection or confinement? A relationship in harmony or conflict? In the work *CAT 'n' DOG*, the relationships are expanded into a game between cat, dog, and mouse. The works explore the realms of possibilities outside established language, where the presence of humor does not exclude, but rather highlights the underlying gravity. The animals can be interpreted as metaphors, an attempt to expand the extremes to an infinite potential, and thus point towards larger power structures, gender roles, geopolitical conditions, and institutional hierarchies.

While the sculptures maintain the relationships in a fixed form, the narrative slips into another register in one of the galleries. Through a small mousehole in the floor, visitors can peek into *Night Life*, a melancholic and exclusive rave party. Maybe it's a celebration, maybe a protest – maybe both.

Mice, being small and often overlooked, are persistent no matter how many traps are set. In the work *Optimist*, one follows a mouse on a scooter as it moves in a circle along the wall and through physical holes in the building. It drives by, almost invisible one moment, but inevitable the next. In this way, it represents a fleeting presence, but also part of a rhythm – a daily repetition. Is it an hour, a day, a month, or a year?

Like the mice in the exhibition, optimism is not static but fluid – a balancing act between hope and doubt, between moon and earth. Sometimes it arises spontaneously, other times it is a struggle and an active choice. In a world where uncertainty and crises prevail, optimism can both be a necessity and a challenge. The joy, playfulness and community that optimism encompasses thus become not just a reaction to the world, but a resilience that persists, even when circumstances are in opposition to it. Wrånes allows this complexity to be a driving force in the exhibition, where optimism is neither romanticized nor trivialized, but is shown in its full ambivalence – as a vibrant, contradictory landscape.

Tori Wrånes (b. 1978) resides and works in Oslo. Her work has been shown at Accelerator Stockholm, Performa 13 New York, Lilith Performance Studio, Malmö, Biennale of Sydney, Lagos Biennale, Thailand Biennale, and Palais de Tokyo in Paris, among others. Wrånes, along with Klara Kristalova and Benjamin Orlov, will be representing the Nordic Pavilion at the 61st Venice Biennale in 2026, curated by Anna Mustonen.



SAL 3

1
Mothers and Child I, 2025
Bronze, aluminum reinforcement,
textile, plastic, foam
560 x 115 x 125 cm
Special thanks to Christopher
Pardell and Rosengren Metallgjuteri

2
Night Life, 2025
Film, sound, hologram
10 min loop
Mice: Sulekha Ali Omar, Tone
Kittelsen and Sara Haave
Music: Joar Renolen
Special thanks to Hans Christian
Skovholt

3
Mussels 1, 2025
Metal, cement, mussels from Koster,
Randesund, Timenes, Nesodden and
Lille Nilen
103 x 61 cm
Special thanks to the mussel pickers

4
Mussels 2, 2025
Metal, cement, mussels from Koster,
Randesund, Timenes, Nesodden and
Lille Nilen
103 x 61 cm
Special thanks to the mussel pickers

5
Mussels 7, 2025
Metal, cement, mussels from Koster,
Randesund, Timenes, Nesodden and
Lille Nilen
40 x 22 cm
Special thanks to the mussel pickers

6
Mussels 6, 2025
Metal, cement, mussels from Koster,
Randesund, Timenes, Nesodden and
Lille Nilen
63 x 28 cm
Special thanks to the mussel pickers

7
*Vinterferie (Winter
Holidays)*, 2025
Epoxy, textile, pigments
32 x 25 cm

8
Sisters Wedding, 2025
Bronze
32 x 38 x 6 cm

SAL 2

1
Mussels 3, 2025
Metal, cement, mussels from Koster,
Randesund, Timenes, Nesodden and
Lille Nilen
98 x 52 cm
Special thanks to the mussel pickers

2
Mussels 8, 2025
Metal, cement, mussels from Koster,
Randesund, Timenes, Nesodden and
Lille Nilen
46 x 24 cm
Special thanks to the mussel pickers

3
CAT'n DOG, 2025
Bronze
216 x 120 x 57 cm
Special thanks to Christopher
Pardell and Rosengren Metallgjuteri

4
Parade, 2025
Epoxy, textile, pigments
32 x 25 cm

1

2

6 5 4 3



5
Mussels 4, 2025
 Metal, cement, mussels from Koster,
 Randesund, Timenes, Nesodden and
 Lille Nilen
 98 x 52 cm
 Special thanks to the mussel pickers

SAL 1

1
River 1-13, 2025
 Metal, epoxy, textile, pigments,
 foam
 Variable dimensions (30 x 25 cm,
 37 x 22 cm, 55 x 35 cm, 60 x 30 cm)

2
Mothers and Child II, 2025
 Bronze, aluminum
 reinforcement, textile,
 plastic, leather, foam
 420 x 220 x 260 cm
 Special thanks to Christopher
 Pardell and Rosengren Metallgjuteri

3
Kniv og Kniv (Knife and Knife), 2025
 Linen, wood, metal, string, acrylic,
 pigments
 172 x 122 cm

4
Parade 2, 2025
 Epoxy, textile, pigments
 32 x 25 cm

5
Gaffel og Gaffel (Fork and Fork),
 2025
 Linen, wood, metal, string, acrylic,
 pigments
 172 x 122 cm

6
*Skje, Skje og Skje (Spoon, Spoon
 and Spoon)*, 2025
 Linen, wood, metal, string, acrylic,
 pigments
 172 x 122 cm

7
Mussels 5, 2025
 Metal, cement, mussels from Koster,
 Randesund, Timenes, Nesodden and
 Lille Nilen
 98 x 52 cm
 Special thanks to the mussel pickers

THROUGH THE GALLERIES

Årer (Oars), 2025
 Performance
 Pine, rowan red tar stain
 Oar: 410 cm, blade: 40 x 250 x 90
 cm
 Special thanks to Trond Solberg

Optimist, 2025
 Metal, photopolymer, acryl, engine,
 sound, lights, electronics
 Variable dimensions
 Produced in collaboration with
 Kristoffer Myskja, with thanks to
 Hans Christian Skovholt

Moon Bag Lyd (Moon Bag Sound),
 2025
 62.3-channel sound installation
 45 min loop
 All sound is composed in
 collaboration with Joar Renolen
 Technical setup and spatial
 programming: Ulf Holbrook
 Musicians, conchs: Lisa Asplund,
 Maja Von Hanno and Anne Marte
 Archer
 Recording, conchs: Ulf Holbrook
 Recording, breath: Daniel Wold
 (Oslo Fuzz)
 Special thanks to Gisle Tveito

Events

Plattform

Tori Wrånes
Artist talk
Sat 24 May 14:00
Upstairs

Plattform

Neo Sinxolo Musangi
Talk
Wed 25 Jun 17:00
Upstairs

Plattform

Chus Martinez
Talk
Sat 16 Aug 14:00
Online

Omvisninger

Every Sunday
13:00 Tour and workshop for families with children
14:00 Tour

Credits

Studio Wrånes

Antti Bjørn
Lisa Asplund
Mari Rossavik
Tone Kittelsen
Reyes Santiago Rojas
Anne Silkjær Petersen
Praktikant: Sara Midtskogen
Haave

All sound composed in collaboration with Joar Renolen

Conchs: Lisa Asplund, Maja Von Hanno, Anne Marte Archer

Additional production

Christopher Pardell
Ulf A. S. Holbrook
Kristoffer Myskja
Sulekha Ali Omar
Joanna Mane Manecka
Soh Tokunaga
Rosengrens Metallgjuteri
Hans Christian Skovholt
Trond Solberg
Konkyljen Allstars

Special thanks to

Inti Wang
Anne-Karen Hytten
Petter Homleid
Nazarian Curcio
Morten Jacobsen
Steinar Kaarstein
Christian Wieberg-Nielsen
Oslo Fuzz: Daniel Wold
Emnet Kebreab
Sven Undheim
Adam Bouras
Marek Gala
Trond Mikkelsen
Gisle Tveito
Kloden Teater

Mussel pickers

Eldar Wrånes
Endre Wrånes
Tallak Wrånes
Nina Bergström
Anne-Karen Hytten
Selma Homleid Andresen
Hermine Homleid Andresen
Mathilde Homleid Andresen
Øivind Homleid
Inger Britt Homleid
Inghild Karlsen

Mice (*Night Life*)

Tone Kittelsen
Sulekha Ali Omar
Sara Midtskogen Haave

Bergen Kunsthall

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soso brafield
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alphie hubbard
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Tale Emelie Hauan
Liv Lindgaard