

## Through the nostrils of a swan

In 1996 four ship painters from the now-defunct Lindø Shipyard on the island of Funen were discovered to have not shown up for work for the past four years.

Instead, they had clocked in each morning and spent their days in each other's company, hiding out in a secret shed in the shadows of the world's largest container ships.

I have no trouble imagining that tall tales, everyday mythologies, and forgetfulness were a regular part of their lives.

I picture them there, sitting in a circle among empty and full containers of this and that, posters, and colored lights.

Like drunken Norns, they spoke of the things left unpainted, and of landscapes far from my own and their own homeland—of vitalistic and ideal bodies painted by the shores, of proud birds as painting subjects, in what was once called nature.

My images are figures maladjusted, cut out from memory, poor photographs, and titles I thought sounded good but never found a picture to belong to.

Some are abstractions drawn from memory; some are figures or environments that emerge precisely within an abstraction and are reluctantly invited into the picture plane, to be introduced to a world that may—or may not—be meant for them.

---

*Bertil Osorio Heltoft b. 1990*

*Studied at Funen Art Academy and Stäedelschule 2023-2019  
Lives and works in Copenhagen*