



snails

Avhandling (25-26)

Matias Kiil

20 Februaury - March 1, 2026

Opening: 20 Feb, 6-10 pm

Hours: 20-22 Feb and 27 Feb-Mar 1, 12-4 pm (Fri-Sun)

The word *Piano*¹ has several meanings in the Italian language, one of which refers to a floor or level within a building.

Snails presents the exhibition *Avhandling (25-26)*² by Matias Kiil. The presentation is part of the Thesis examination for his Master of Fine Arts degree at the National Academy of the Arts. The work has been developed in relation to piano workshop Holthe & Bakke.³

Friday 27 Feb. between 18:00-18:30, the work *Demonstrasjon (2026)* will take place at Holthe & Bakke in their grand piano display in Hausmannsgate 45. The event includes a concert by Our Beethoven⁴ responding to the reseach and conditions developed by the artist.

Thanks to Kristiane Larsen Fort, Aljosa Eraković, Ane Hjort Guttu, Bjørn Ola Bakke, Doris Guo and Elise Macmillan

1 The Piano is often understood as a self-contained instrument, defined by its mechanical precision and standardized layout. Its keyboard establishes a fixed spatial and tonal order, while its internal action translates bodily gesture into sound through a regulated and industrial process. The Instrument also carries strong cultural associations with virtuosity, and solitary practice. The most common forms of the piano in traditional Western music are the upright piano and the grand piano. Both share the same fundamental keyboard layout and tuning system, yet differ in scale and string orientation. While the upright piano is often associated with domestic interiors, pedagogy, and everyday use, the grand piano occupies a more performative role, designed for visibility and spatial dominance.

2 The Title *Treatise/Avhandling* derives from the work of British composer and artist Cornelius Cardew's *Treatise* (63–67). A 193-page graphic score that provides no instructions regarding duration, tempo, or instrumentation. The scores enforces the interpretation of the performers both as individuals and as an ensemble, leveling the relations between composer, conductor and instrumentalist.

3 Piano Workshop Holte & Bakke was established in 1992 in Motzfeldts gate and later moved to Hausmannsgate. An attraction towards the store and their grand piano display emerged through repeated encounters with the site and its specific spatial and geographical conditions. The twelve grand pianos, displayed behind a large window facing the street, appear both as instruments and as latent acoustic bodies- present, yet inactive. Their arrangement suggests a pluralistic potential that remains unrealized, suspended between display, storage and performance. This latent condition forms the point of departure for a concert with Our Beethoven.

4 Our Beethoven is a duo of Elise Macmillan on violin and John Andrew Wilhite on contrabass. They work with traditions of folk and archival music as grounds for expansion.

Matias Kiil (b. 1995, Stavanger) is completing his MFA at the National Academy of Fine Arts in Oslo. His practice explores fractures, intervals, and displacements within social, individual, and political structures through sculpture and installation. Employing language and elements of the everyday, his work stages critical scenarios around social ergonomics and configurations of power. With an interest in structures and architecture as physical and metaphysical frameworks, the work seeks to problematize contemporary systems of value.



snails

Avhandling (25-26)

Matias Kiil

20 Februaury - March 1, 2026

Opening: 20 Feb, 6-10 pm

Hours: 20-22 Feb and 27 Feb-Mar 1, 12-4 pm (Fri-Sun)

1. *Pedal 5 (Sustain), 2026*

Bronze

20 x 5 x 6 cm

2. *Pedal 2 (Sustain), 2026*

Bronze

20 x 5 x 6 cm

3. *Pedal 1 (Sustain), 2026*

Bronze

20 x 5 x 6 cm

4. *Pedal 7 (Sustain), 2026*

Bronze

20 x 5 x 6 cm

5. *Footnote 2 (Treatise, 1967 -*

Cornelius Cardew), 2026

Projected slideshow

16 min.

6. *Drum Loop, 2026*

Automated drum loop on children's keyboard
connected to ultrasonic directional speaker.

Various dimensions

7. *Demonstrasjon, 2026*

Site, Holthe & Bakke Piano store, Hausmannsgate 45

Concert by Our Beethoven organized by the artist

Friday 27 Feb, 18-18.30

