

# *with eyes closed, call me* 12.4. – 5.15. 2019

BERGEN KUNSTHALL

Fine Arts Masters graduation exhibition 2019 of the  
Faculty of Art, Music and Design (KMD), University of Bergen

With: Agnete Ilona Tangrand, Alexandra Jegerstedt, Anthony Morton, Audrey Hurd, Ben Connell, Dimitri Thomas-Komissarov, Éléonore Griveau, Gentian Rhosa Meikleham, Ingrid Skåland Eriksen, Kim Hankyul, Kristen Keegan, Linda Marie Westgaard, Linda Morell, Marianne Løvvik, Sandra Blichert, Sidsel Bonde, Søren Krag, Tanya Varbanova, Timothy Eklund, Tine Adler, Tine Gunvaldsen, Tone Andersen, Victor Guzman, Yu Zhu

Curator: Eva Rowson

Bergen Kunsthall hosts the annual graduation exhibition for the Master's Programme in Fine Art of the Art Academy - Department of Contemporary Art, Faculty of Art, Music and Design (KMD), University of Bergen.

24 international artists present their varied practices in an exhibition spanning the gallery (and other) spaces inside and outside the Kunsthall. 'with eyes closed, call me' is organised thematically, connecting the artists' shared explorations into different types of interpersonal and physical support structures, melodrama and sci-fi, ways of creating intimacy, memory and narrative collectively, and abstractions of forms and materials.

These thematic focuses have formed out of group discussions between the artists. The title is taken from a collaborative writing experiment in imagining what the exhibition, bringing together these different points of connection, wants to say. 'with eyes closed, call me' is an invitation to join the artists at the end of their two years of studying together in going into the unknown, interrupt the 'normal' paths ahead and make new ones together.

"A focus on collaboration runs through the exhibition and the planning behind it. We – Agnete, Alexandra, Anthony, Audrey, Ben, Dimitri, Éléonore, Gentian, Ingrid, Kim, Kristen, Linda, Linda, Marianne, Sandra, Sidsel, Søren, Tanya, Timothy, Tine, Tine, Tone, Victor, Yu and I – began with an understanding that although this is a presentation of 24 individual artists, we never make things happen on our own and we need to find ways to hold and guide each other in negotiating space, needs, disagreements, desires, doubts – and everything in between.

As well as collaborations between the artists themselves, Bergen and Malmö-based feminist design cooperative JAHJAH Studio (Johanne Karlsrud, Aurora Bergmark and Hanne Gabrielsen) have conceived the visual identity for the exhibition and catalogue. Art criticism duo The White Pube from the UK (Gabrielle de la Puente and Zarina Muhammad) lead an event on Saturday 4 May on their work in making room for honest dialogue, and disagreement, in contemporary art discourse. The exhibition is produced through the close co-working of the artists, who in groups have taken shared responsibility for communications, events, production and the catalogue, as well as the ongoing cooperation between many different workers in the teams in the Faculty of Art, Music and Design (KMD) at University of Bergen, Landmark and Bergen Kunsthall. The opening night on Friday 12 April at Bergen Kunsthall is curated, produced and catered by artists Emilie Wright, Emma Fuchs Sjövall, Fauve Tintigner, Haruka Fukau, Kaeto Sweeney, Peter Voss Knude and Sara Arenfeldt Kragh from the first-year Master's Programme in Fine Art.

'with eyes closed, call me' asks you to come with us! To trust in those around you to try something different, know that we're supporting each other in bringing all our individual experiences and feelings, and see where we can get to together."

- Eva Rowson, Curator

*With thanks to Colonialen, Bergen for their support.*

Press Preview  
11.4 14:00  
With the curator and artists

Opening  
12.4. 20:00

Event  
4.5. 14:00  
The White Pube: 'Origin Story'  
Free. The talk will be in English

Press contacts  
Eva Rowson  
Exhibition Curator  
eva.rowson@googlemail.com  
(+44) 7989 335902

Tine Gunvaldsen  
Student representative,  
Exhibition press and outreach  
tine.gunvaldsen@gmail.com

Gard Andreas Frantzen  
Faculty of Fine Art, Music and Design  
University of Bergen  
Gard.Frantzen@uib.no  
(+47) 55 58 73 32  
(+47) 913 11 259

Stein-Inge Århus  
Bergen Kunsthall  
stein-inge@kunsthall.no  
(+47) 940 15 051

Event Information:  
The White Pube: 'Origin Story'  
Saturday 4 May 14:00  
Bergen Kunsthall  
Free, all welcome  
The talk will be in English

A talk from The White Pube, the collaborative art criticism practice of Gabrielle de la Puente and Zarina Muhammad (based in London and Liverpool, UK). The White Pube have been building an international readership since 2015, unafraid to call out elitism in the art world and encouraging honest and straight-forward criticism as an accessible and relevant form of art writing. In the context of the 2019 Masterutstillingen i kunst, The White Pube will reflect on why they began writing after graduating from art school - and how they keep going - in order to democratise gallery audiences and bring in different voices and perspectives to contemporary art discourse.

This event is co-organised by the event working group Agnete Ilona Tangrand, Gentian Rhosa Meikleham, Linda Morell, Søren Krag, Tanya Varbanova, and Tone Andersen:

"This exhibition holds many collaborations, from the physical works themselves, to the conversations around them, to the negotiations of space. For us, this working together is what art needs and demands; there must always be room for disagreement, development and sharing.

When thinking about this event, The White Pube immediately came to mind. I wanted to reach out to them, as a response to what I feel is a lack of critical honesty in current art discourse. I was looking for a way to introduce potential conflict, as a way to complicate and elaborate on a dialogue around contemporary art, and the world it sits in. As new MA graduates we are on the edge of a potential career in this world, and it is important to consider what we want it to be and how we want to live in it, together. As we negotiate these new territories, it is my hope that we can stay critical of the environments we occupy and help to encourage each others work. This event with The White Pube comes at a pivotal time for imagining new futures. Working against, working with, working together."

- Gentian Rhosa Meikleham, event working group