

## MASU / Art Inside Out - Halmstad

**MASU** is the artist collaboration between Mattias Gunnarsson and Susanne Westerberg. We have worked together as part of our artistic practises since 2012 with both KU (Artistic Development) project, exhibitions and self-initiated projects. 2018 has been our most productive year so far.

We work mainly with drawing and spatial sculptural projects, and our focus is always the collaborative practice where we work together regardless of format, size or material. This means that we move often to change position and perspective and switch places continuing on each others intentions so no drawing or construction only have one sender.

*Konstnärligt arbete pågår* is the umbrella title for the *Art Inside Out* (AIO) residence project in the city of Halmstad during the spring of 2018. *Art Inside Out* is a nomadic institution that organises artist residencies in the county of Halland. There are two different towns chosen each year, one in the spring and one in the fall of each year. The process of choosing participants varies each time from invitations to open calls. *Konstnärligt arbete pågår* was AIOs third project and for this three artists / groups (Kerstin Bergendal, Saadia Hussein and MASU) were invited to work with public space and the users of the city. We all had different types of projects and different times when we were on site in Halmstad. The whole project is well documented by AIO in their web journal: [www.artinsideout.se](http://www.artinsideout.se)

Our *Konstnärligt arbete pågår*-project ran on site from April 13th to June 9th 2018 and contains two major parts: an exhibition at Halmstad Konsthall and the on-site sculptural work at Bastionen, Halmstad.

The work at Bastionen was also extended two months as an exhibition by the city of Halmstad (until July 31st 2018)

2018.02.01

### Konstnärligt arbete pågår

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AIO podd / nytt avsnitt... 00:00 / 00:46

Residenset äger rum på olika platser i centrala Halmstad januari – juni 2018, med flest aktiviteter under april – juni. Vänligen se kalendarium för nyheter och aktuella plattshändelser. **Medverkande konstnärer:** Kerstin Bergendal, Saadia Hussain, MASU (Mattias Gunnarsson och Susanne Westerberg).

▶▶ | Vänligen använd pilarna i video- och audiofönstren för att navigera.



→ DELA

MASU ▶▶

BIOGRAFIER:

Kerstin Bergendal / Mattias Gunnarsson & Susanne Westerberg / Saadia Hussain

### Konstnärligt arbete pågår

*Diskussioner om betydelsen av konstens närvaro i våra gemensamma miljöer och vem som har tolkningsföreträdet över det offentliga rummet har onekligen väckt förnyat engagemang de senaste tio åren. Mot bakgrund av det ökande intresset för offentlig konst, samtidigt som det talas om det offentliga rummets borttynande till följd av*

The **MASU** project within *Konstnärligt arbete pågår* contains different sections that are partly separated in time, but still are connected to the same flow of ideas, material, questions and conversation.

One way to see it is that we started the project in the fall 2017 with sketches, drawings, site-visits and so on and we also participated in the performance festival 13Festivalen at Konstepidemin with a small scale one-day version of our building project. The period of prototyping for the actual event was later presented in three zines / publications (MASU Works 1-3) and printed in an edition of 100 as a catalogue for the exhibition in Halmstad Konsthall.

For the exhibition at Halmstad Konsthall we had 8 large MDF panels (220 x 60 cm) and more than 1500 thin wooden sticks in various lengths. In the exhibition we arranged the panels in the space to create smaller sections in the big open space. Then we worked with the thin sticks and glue to build a sort of nesting or mycelium structures that attached to the panels and stretched out both to walls, columns or other panels. During the process we switched places often, changing directions and texture of the structures to make sure we never got stuck in one format.

Also part of the exhibition at Halmstad Konsthall were the 3000 wooden laths that were going to be used in part two of the project, at Bastionen. The laths were neatly packed and during the three week period of the show visitors were invited to write on the laths from the question: *What / where is my best place?*

This interaction with the laths worked as a bridge between the two parts of our work since we would move the laths out to the site of Bastionen and use all of them in the larger scale sculptural work.



On the 14th of May we started our three week outdoor work at Bastionen which is a open and public, but yet somewhat hidden location in the center of Halmstad. It is a 1970's concrete interpretation of the old defence wall of the city with a large open semi circular space about 50 meters in diameter, with stairs coming up on all sides and a part of the old wall on one side. It is placed on the edge of a Norre katts park and also right next to Nissan, the river running thru Halmstad. It is a both interesting and rough space that has a intricate history of changes and plans, as well as some contemporary urban challenges connected to substance abuse.

The site was offered to us for the project as a part of a development plan by the municipality.

On the plateau we had our 3000 laths, black markers for visitors to use, ladders and cable ties.

We started by building three wall sections 4 x 3 meter with wood studs. This was our spatial epicenter from which the structures "flowed". Over the coming three weeks we worked in a steady flow, 250 laths a day minimum, by connecting laths together with each other and the surrounding / fasta structures of the site such as railings and stairs. We always had markers at hand and we invited all visitors to write about their best place either on the laths being piled or directly on to the growing structure making the structure more readable for each day. We stayed in Halmstad during this part of the project making it possible to be present at the site on all hours of the day. When we left for sleep we always left some markers for the late night writers with the result of less poetic text and more relationally direct of who is a this and that or who wants to so and so. The layers of writing from both day and night with its on one hand distant and dreamy sense on place like Nice, Costa Rica or grandmothers couch and at the same time very connected to the present and local with Snapchat and Instagram addresses, names of teen love partners and thrash talk of someone within the age group gives the reading a great feeling of place and the many voices connecting to it.

Over time of the working days our structure stretched out over the walls of Bastionen, making it visible from different parts of the city also showing it as a spatial project. For us it is clearly both spatial and textual, it places itself as a self-sustaining body with the texture of the swarm with an inherent motion where all the parts are one body and at the same time it sits still offering each part to be read, touched and examined. The structure is both the body and the swarm, the entity and the many. It is collaborative practice.

During the whole project *Konstnärligt arbete pågår* we came in contact with a lot of people from AIO, the municipality and city of Halmstad as well as artists, journalists, club owners and architects.

There was a film made by my Kristina Meiton for AIO, Katti Lundh wrote a text about *Collaborative becoming* for MASU works 4 (we produced 5 issues of MASU works during this project), and we co-organized a seminar moderated by Joakim Forsemalm and Kajsa Sparrings on In-between spaces in the city.

We had about 40 visitors a day during the project, and many of them participated in the writing. When the project at Bastionen was coming to an end the city of Halmstad extended the project and the process oriented work turned into a sculpture that was exhibited for two months. We returned to the site every week for maintenance and also for a re-build / re-charge of the site after a month. On July 31st we disassembled the whole structure and transported the wood to Kronoskogen in Ängelholm for a continuing project.

When we left there was no trace of a 3000 laths / 9000 cable ties sculpture.



AIO Journal | 2018 #5 | Halmstads kommun | artinsideout.se

# Konstnärligt arbete pågår



**Vernissage 18/4, kl. 17**

Residenset Konstnärligt arbete pågår, samt Art Inside Outs nya digitala plattform AIO-journal presenteras.

Konstnärduon MASU samtalar med Petra Johansson, verksamhetsledare Art Inside Out.

**ART  
INSIDE  
OUT**



Kerstin Bergendal



MASU



Saadia Hussain

I Art Inside Out residenset "Konstnärligt arbete pågår" utforskar konstnärerna Kerstin Bergendal, MASU (Mat Gunnarsson & Susanne Westerberg) och Saadia Hussain det offentliga rumets föränderliga förhållanden vilka funktioner vi kan tänkas behöva komplettera våra städer med.

Residenset pågår januari-juni 2018, olika platser i Halmstad, bl.a. Österskans och Bastionen.

Utställningen i Halmstads konsthall pågår 18 april – 6 maj.



**HALMSTADS  
KONSTHALL**

Öppet: mån–fre 13–18, löf–sön 12–16 • Fri entré  
Guidad visning: lördagar och söndagar kl. 13 • Axel Olboms gata 1, i Stadsbiblioteket  
www.halmstad.se/halmstadskonsthall • Tfn 045-13 94 44  
Följ oss på Facebook och Instagram: @konsthalmstad

**Halmstad**



**En bra plats - mellanrummens roll i stadsrummet**  
Måndag 4 juni, kl. 17:30, på Bastionen, Halmstad



Art Inside Outs residenskonstnärer MASU huserar under maj och juni på Bastionen i centrala Halmstad, som en del i residenset "Konstnärligt arbete pågår", där de bygger en tillfällig träkonstruktion som inbjuder till samtal om plats. Nu bjuder de in till reflektion och samtal om mellanrumspplatser med inbjudna gäster.

Program för kvällen:

- Inledning: Petra Johansson, verksamhetsledare Art Inside Out
- Reflektion: Joakim Forsemalm, docent i etnologi Radar arkitektur
- Samtal: Residenskonstnärerna i MASU - Mattias Gunnarsson och Susanne Westerberg, Kajsa Spärrings, stadsarkitekt i Halmstad och Joakim Forsemalm, docent i etnologi.

Efter samtalet blir det pizza-mingel på Roots.

Välkommen!

Läs mer om MASUs arbete på Bastionen i AIO Journal: [www.artinsideout.se](http://www.artinsideout.se)











