Academy of Design and Crafts Mattias Gunnarsson / Susanne Westerberg MASU / Staden till havet / Kronoskogen, Ängelholm 2019 - 08 - 04

## Staden till Havet / Kronoskogen 2019

Collaborative sculpture work in Kronoskogen, Ängelholm. A mycelic structure that move among the pine trees that climb the trunks. The structure is part of the Staden till havet Land art project in Ängelholm as well as our project (Material) Site Recordings where we work with and place / replace 3000 wooden laths, partly or in full, 10 times over the coming years. This is placement number three (3), with Bastionen, Halmstad being the first and Staden till havet 2018 the second.

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From the work at Bastionen and Kronoskogen 2018 we had a stack of 1504 laths sitting on the site in the forest. We numbered them and added 200 laths from another sculpture project to replace the ones that were broken in dismantling and transportation so far. We have chosen a site for the work in near proximity from the other structure but still far enough to make the two sculptures as their own.

We unpacked the laths that had been stacked tight in the forest for a year uncovering the ants nests and the calligraphic mycelium of fungi that resemble some other spices writing. The text-like pattern resonating playfully with the earlier participant writings on the laths from Bastionen that we are now re-publishing in Kronoskogen a year later, together with the on site fungi scribbles on the laths. From a year in a pile the laths were soaked from rain and needed a one day drying mid station before being part of the tree climbing structure.

In contrast to the structure we built (and re-built after a storm incident) in 2018, that sits in an opening in the forest very much exposed to the weather, we now choose a site among the pine trees that allows for both a bit of protection as well as more varied light conditions and the possibility to get some height by climbing up the trees. The trees also moves slowly with the wind making the whole structure follow and together they make cracking sounds that adds an extra sensory layer to the site.

During the week of work in the forest the routine of practice gets more clear. We arrive early to fully use the day and carry wood from the stack to the work site (placing it to dry nearby). We work together, both on ladders and on the ground, often shifting spots and assisting each other to make sure that the structure continuously grows as a collaborative piece. The last day we stay on site for 24 hours to document the shifts in light as the sun goes down and eventually comes back up.

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1704 wooden laths held together with 4500 cable ties.

The structure occupies an area of apx  $15 \times 20$  meters with a top height of around 4 meters. We decided on the site among the pine trees some 100 meters from the other structure within the same project that we worked on September 2018 (Negotiations - Something about material narratives Part 1 + 2). There is a both an upwards striving force on the site thru the many tall straight tree trunks, and a more rhizomatic energy of shrubs, moss, fungi and insects. We decided to incorporate both in the sculpture making it both spread and connect trees and space and also reach and climb up along the trees. The swarm-like composition of the laths and all the different angles and facettes it presents gives the structure an inherent motion that is emphasised as one moves around the site. The light coming through the trees adds to the experience of the growing and flowing structure that spreads among the trees.

With this sculpture up on site we have now put all our project laths in play. The writings with markers on the laths by visitors and participants at Bastionen in 2018 answering to the question What is your best place? (and also not answering to this but rather expressing the love or not for other people and places:) that has been in hiding for a year is now again out in the open, being re-published in Kronoskogen resonating with the black fungi mycelium from the site. The combination of these two different marks on the laths are quite exciting.

You can find the work here ---> 56.249683, 12.841512

www.masu-projects.se











