

Generator:

Generator is a temporary art project in Trondheim, Norway, which will open on Saturday, 9 June 2007. The project will be dismantled by the end of September. The main aim of Generator is to explore to what extent new types of public art can have a vitalizing effect in a city like Trondheim.

Generator wants to explore alternative strategies for public art that can bring other types of art into this context. The purpose is both to present art that explores the space, the site and art's relation to society in other ways than traditional Public Art ("Utsmykking" in norwegian) - and to stimulate a public debate about the role and function of art in society: What is its purpose, what does it do for us, to what use can it be put, what values does art represent today, what is the role of art in the context of democracy and freedom of speech?

Generator is composed of 9 separate projects by both norwegian and foreign artists. The projects deal with their themes, the physical manifestation and the public in different ways. Some projects will take the shape of physical installations that will stand unchanged during the entire project period, others will be realized as events or ongoing processes that will only become visible as events and through the documentation of these events. What all the projects have in common however, is a desire to communicate and to stimulate reflection, dialogue and discussion. Generator therefore plans to use some of the projects as starting points for public meetings discussing the questions addressed by the projects.

The present situation in Trondheim is ideal for a project like Generator. The local politicians want the artists to participate more actively in discussions about the development of the city, the municipality has committed itself to a very ambitious program for Public Art/Utsmykking (spending between NOK 7 and 18 million per year), and there has been a very heavy development of central areas of the city over the last 5 years. Several parallel discussions are now going on about new and very large developments with big consequences for the future of the city.

Generator is a project owned by Trøndelag Centre for Contemporary Art and the municipality of Trondheim. The project is run by a group of four artists and representatives from the art centre and the municipality. See also: www.generator2007.no

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Presentation of the participating artists and projects:

Tadashi Kawamata (Tokyo/Paris): Tree Huts

Tadashi Kawamata has over a period of more than 20 years made large public art projects in Japan and many countries in Europe, in South America, USA and Canada. He has participated in all the major international biennales, like Documenta, Venice and Sao Paulo. He works mainly in wood - often recycled - and he often involves groups of art and architecture students in the realization of his projects. This will also be the case in Trondheim, where Kawamata's project will take place in the historic centre of the city, close to a church built in 1739, Vår Frue Kirke. Here he plans to build a colony of tree huts. The building process will be part of the presentation of the work - as the opening of Generator will take place two days before Kawamata and his team start building the huts. The Tree Hut project will be completed by June 20.

Katya Sander (Copenhagen/Berlin): Fanism

Katya Sander was educated in Copenhagen and New York, and now lives and works in Berlin. In addition to participating in this year's Documenta, she has exhibited and made projects in Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Germany, Austria and USA (New York). Katya Sander works in various ways depending on the theme, the site and the context. She has worked with themes as different as the relationship between text and image in the public space of a large newspaper (Politiken, Copenhagen), the backside of the tourist facade of Vienna (a tourist map of the main streets for prostitutes), and the need for safety in a prosperous Danish

suburb ('Safety Graffiti'/Odense). Her project for Generator will deal with Trondheim's famous football team, Rosenborg, and their supporters.

Apolonija Sustersic (Ljubljana/Amsterdam): Cities of the Future

Apolonija Sustersic was educated both as an architect and an artist, and she has worked on art projects in Slovenia, Sweden, The Netherlands, Germany, Austria and England. She is especially interested in how she as an artist can contribute to more democratic discussions about urban development, forms of living, and social/political meeting places. Her projects often take the shape of places for dialogue, discussion and learning. Apolonija Sustersic plans to make her Generator project around the area Brattøra, which is now facing a period of extensive development.

Marit Justine Haugen (Oslo): Zone of Urgency

Marit Justine Haugen was also educated both as an architect and artist, in Trondheim (2000) and Oslo (2005) respectively. She has previously made a large installation at the Sculpture Biennale in Oslo (2006). For Generator, she wants to disturb the comfort and safety of public space by showing a rather quiet and peaceful video in many different places in Trondheim. By insisting upon this simple event she wants to create a Zone of Urgency, a feeling of peace being disturbed, of approaching threat, and that something has to be done...

Tina Jonsbu (Oslo): Chewing Gum Marking

In her project for Generator Tina Jonsbu will use the marks left on the streets and squares of Trondheim by chewing gum. These marks are like documentation of little stories about the pedestrians' movement patterns, and they create an unconscious ornament in the public space. The artist will accentuate this hidden ornament by circling each individual mark. This will visualize and elevate an element of the city image, which is usually barely noticed. This project will be made as a one-day-event, probably on June 9 - the opening day.

Vigdis Haugtrø and Johannes Franciscus de Gier (Trondheim): Ecologic house

The artists will challenge the city space through the construction and use of an autonomous ecologic dwelling. They will primarily use Euro pallets and other recycled materials found in the city, and the process will be a visualization of minimal use of resources for maximal extraction. The finished house will be the artists' dwelling during the period of the Generator project. It will also house, and be the starting point of open meetings with discussions about ecology, lifestyle, ethics and art. The house will be completed by June 20. After the Generator project period, the house will be moved to the area Svartlamon for further development and use.

Frøydis Linden (Bergen): Where are you from?

Frøydis Linden was educated at the Kunsthøgskolen in Bergen (the department for ceramics 2006). She has previously exhibited in Copenhagen and Bergen. In her project for Generator she will invite approximately 20 café guests in Trondheim to answer the question 'where are you from?' - and the answer will be expressed through an object made from clay and through a written description of the object and the history behind it. The objects will be cast in porcelain and presented together with their stories in the public space. The work thus becomes an encounter between the private and the public space and an apropos to the tradition of 'great men cast in bronze' in prominent places.

New Meaning (Trondheim): New Meaning/Dialogue

The members of the art group New Meaning (Gry Ulrichsen and Ebba Moi) have, since they graduated from the Art Academy in Trondheim in 2000, worked together with immigrant youth in different ways. In the project 'New Meaning/Dialogue' they will arrange a series of workshops dealing with dialogue, understanding and conflict management for youths from non-democratic regimes. New Meaning will coordinate the workshops, but Hanin Al Khamisi, Sayed Zahir Nasir and Sayed Jamil Nasir will manage them after receiving training at Norges Fredsråd. At the end of the project period the participants will plan and execute a mural at Kolstad in Trondheim.

Hilde Rognskog (Oslo): TO OWN, yes aaah yes, yes

Hilde Rognskog wants to focus on the desire for property, on real estate ownership patterns in Trondheim, on the estate agents' way of creating and selling dreams, and on the dreams that can't be realised. She will do this by creating a fictive estate agency, which will offer fictive, unattractive or unmarketable properties. The project also includes a survey of the distribution of property in Trondheim and a study of the relationship between what is private and what is public in this connection. This project will be presented on six occasions during the Generator period, at several different shopping centers in Trondheim.