



Faculty of Fine & Performing Arts

KOND71, Fine Art: Habitat, 6 credits

Fri Konst: Habitat, 6 högskolepoäng

First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Department Board of Malmö Art Academy on 2020-01-27 to be valid from 2020-01-27, spring semester 2020.

General Information

Artistic creation course, Lund University, Faculty of Fine and Performing Arts, Malmö Art Academy.

Optional course for the BFA programme (KGFKO).

Language of instruction: Swedish and English

Main field of studies

Fine Arts

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

GXX, First cycle, in-depth level of the course cannot be classified

Learning outcomes

The aim is to enhance the students' ability to formulate and show an artistic wholeness.

The aim is the students' comprehensive development for artistic work.

Special importance is attributed to the object that analytical insight should be shown in the artistic creation.

Course content

Habitat. A word that summons up a place, a place to live, with favourable conditions for life – but also habits. Custom and usage, contexts that can provide meaning just as much as they can be imperative. How do you act when you are free? And is it important? How is it to be yourself? How do you know who you are? Am I the person I remember that I was yesterday or the person I will be tomorrow? How do I cohere?

Can you choose to be someone other than who you are? Who then is it that decides, or what within a person? Can we with our free will decide who we are going to be? Who are those who sell themselves? Present themselves, market themselves – each with their own brand, each their own whore? Will you be profitable little friend? If we are all replaceable, could we be each other, too? How far can the adaptation go? To society's, the other's, the market's, the religions' or even our own will's demands on us to be ourself, choose ourself, want to be free, be products, goods for sale to the highest bidder for jobs, breeding, fame or just because you can gain a scrap of meaning in exchange for joining in? Will, individual, person, mask, consumption of the self and others, marketing of the individual, marketing of personalities, lifestyles, ideologies, religions... Is that the ultimate truth about people as single individuals, as completely interchangeable with each other, or is there something else we are living in? How do you create yourself in a time when everything can be reduced to figures on a screen, points on a graph, faces and genitals on dating apps? When identities are exchangeable, can be bought and sold? How do we control information about ourself, and how does this differ from our knowledge of ourself? What happens when the gap between self-esteem and the projecting of a persona becomes too large? The growth of a self-obsessed society, each and every one in their own self-image, their fantasy of themselves. And the others as... Fetish? Mirror? Ideal?

Collaboration

Habitat is an ongoing collaboration between author Torbjörn Elensky, musician Jonas S Bohlin and visual artist Sirous Namazi. Our idea is that the work is based on texts, both newly written and found – from adverts, self-presentations for job applications or Tinder, historical examples, highly trivial minor stories and dramatic historical events. The texts are presented as monologues, dialogues, sometimes in larger contexts, by actors, amateurs, on screens, through loudspeakers. They are complemented with music, dance and movements such as dressing and undressing and the dressing and undressing of others. Song parts are woven into each other like a mosaic of voices, and sometimes pure vocal sounds, from growls and sighs to screams. The different positions give the individuals their roles in the totality. They exchange texts with each other while they change positions, prompted by sound or light cues.

The aleatoric compositions of the text machine can be based on chance actions, everything from speech excerpts from people who may have something to contribute, to interviews, purely documentary elements. All revolving around the existential theme of identity – larger, deeper, richer and more dangerous than the political, but also much more important. Unsolvable, without doubt, but necessary, just because.

The music is generated by the harmonic structure Chromatic Congruence and consists of a constantly ongoing transformation. In a specific 24-step pattern, it moves through all keys without traditional cadences. In Habitat, it becomes a part of Sirous's and Elensky's constructions, a transparent continuum that creates a web of harmonic progressions in which the keynotes are transient and final chords do not exist. The sound consists mainly of MIDI-controlled sampled sounds/instruments, but at certain points musicians come in and play along in the web.

Author Torbjörn Elensky

Lectures on: My authorship, my view of literature, language, the art of writing, linked to both current personal projects and more general theory. Stories told through different media. Fixed forms and changeable figures. Reality and realism. Constancy and renewal. Truth and illusions. Specifically with reference to the work Habitat and the thoughts we are developing (allowing to be developed) in connection with this.

Films: Two possible combinations, involving Pasolini's *Salò* and/or Buñuel's *Las Hurdes*, in which the film is shown and followed by a documentary about the film. They address documentary/narrative/fiction, reality/image/propaganda etc. and act as a

starting point for continued conversation, regardless of which one you choose.

Musician Jonas S Bohlin

Lectures on: Music's origin and development. How we relate to, and practise the legacy in our times.

A short summary of the history of music. Modernism's cutting of the Gordian Knot – a fascinating necessity.

Short explanation of the structure of music and sound, overtones, formants. Spectral music.

How I work musically in Habitat. What is composition, creating musical spaces. Frozen music – architecture/sculpture. Chromatic Congruence – transformation as form.

Two topics that have had a strong effect on me. They affect each other. Rosetta is about our origins. Cave of Forgotten Dreams shows some of the earliest cave paintings ever discovered. It is not important to watch everything. It is sufficient to watch short clips that describe what it is about. If you are going to send something to Malmö, pick the first one.

1. Cave of Forgotten Dreams. Werner Herzog. This is a short clip:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_xDcdVWnOiE2.

2. Rosetta mission. The best film about this is the BBC's Rosetta: The whole story. It is not free, unfortunately, but can certainly be arranged. Here is short mix of the pictures that were taken.

<https://vimeo.com/347565673>

Course design

Lectures, discussions, studio visits and students individual work

Assessment

For the grade pass there needs to be at least 80% presence at lectures and seminars and the grade pass on tasks, if there is any.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, Pass.

Entry requirements

General requirements for university studies in Sweden

Subcourses in KON71, Fine Art: Habitat

Applies from V20

2001 Fine Art: Habitat, 6,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass