

**TO PERFORM BODY**  
**Capability, cultural activity, and the changing face of ageing**  
**Ingmar Skoog**

Ingmar Skoog will talk about different aspects of ageing (social, psychological and biological), and how ageing has changed dramatically during the last decades. He will also talk about how we can prevent brain ageing, and how cultural activities may play a role in this.

Professor Ingmar Skoog is director for the Centre for Ageing and Health AGECAP, including 130 researchers from 17 institutions and 5 faculties at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, and is leading the Neuropsychiatric Epidemiology Unit (Epinep) at the Sahlgrenska Academy. He has published more than 450 papers in international scientific journals, cited more than 25,000 times, and been invited speaker to more than 300 international meetings. His main research interest is the epidemiology of ageing, including time-trends in ageing, dementia, and mental disorders of old age. He is member of the governments scientific advisory board on ageing, was host for a Summer program – Sommar i P1 – in Swedish radio 2021 and voted Senior of the year in Sweden 2021.

**MODERATOR**  
**Maja Gunn**

Maja Gunn is professor of Craft at HDK-Valand, Campus Steneby, and member of the interdisciplinary research milieu Centre for ageing and health (AgeCap) at the University of Gothenburg. She holds a PhD in Design with specialisation Fashion design from The Swedish School of Textiles. Her artistic expertise and experience of research projects involving design, art, craft, architecture and film as well as co-creating with older people. In parallel with her position as a professor Maja Gunn works as an artist and designer. Her works have been featured in numerous publications, exhibitions and performances in Sweden and internationally.

**To Perform Body** is the sixth seminar in the series that was initiated by the program Textile – Body – Space at HDK-Valand, Campus Steneby. This year the seminar is a collaboration between HDK-Valand, AgeCap, IASPIS/The Swedish Arts Grants Committee, Konsthantverkscentrum, and with support from Göteborgs Slöjdförening.

**What is old?** And how do we work with ageing in the fields of art, craft, film and performance? On Thursday March 31st the seminar **To Perform Body** will discuss ageing in relation to artistic design with some of the most prominent researchers, scholars and artists in the field. The seminar provides examples of how artists worked with ageing as a theme – the transience of material, and its significance for memories and stories. The older body's capability and the view of ageing and the importance of culture for healthy ageing are other aspects that are addressed. The seminar discusses how art and culture perform body, but also discusses and makes visible the bodies that perform, make and participate in art and culture.

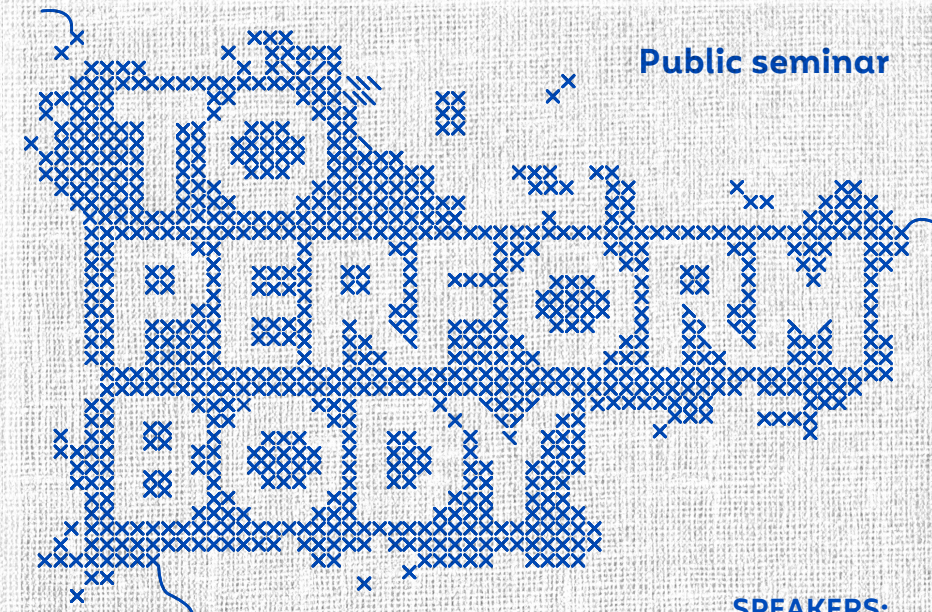
The seminar **To Perform Body** is free but pre-registration is needed due to limited number of seats. There will be a free bus to Dals Långed for you who travel from Gothenburg. Email [tpb@gu.se](mailto:tpb@gu.se) to register and please write if you want to join the bus. You will receive a confirmation email with all the details. **We kindly ask you to register asap and latest March 27th.**

**PROGRAM**

- 07:30 bus departures Gothenburg\*
- 09:45 Registration at Samlingsalen, Campus Steneby
- 10:15 Introduction by **Maja Gunn**
- 10:30 **Ingmar Skoog**
- 11:00 **Suzanne Osten**
- 12:00 Lunch
- 13:00 **Amir Parsa**
- 14:15 **Marja-Leena Sillanpää**
- 15:15 **Takao Momiyama**
- 16:00 Discussion

\*Bus departures Gothenburg 07:30 and plan to be back in Gothenburg approximately at 19:45.

**REGISTRATION:**  
[tpb@gu.se](mailto:tpb@gu.se)



**Public seminar**

**SPEAKERS:**

**Suzanne Osten**  
**Amir Parsa**  
**Marja-Leena Sillanpää**  
**Takao Momiyama**  
**Ingmar Skoog**

**MODERATOR:**  
**Maja Gunn**

**Thursday**  
**March 31, 2022**

**Samlingsalen, HDK-Valand**  
**Campus Steneby, Dals Långed**



**CENTRE FOR AGEING AND HEALTH**  
- AGECAP



**Konsthantverkscentrum**  
The Swedish Arts Grants Committee



## AGE IS FICTION Suzanne Osten

Suzanne Osten will talk about body and representation as a central theme in the theatre and in her work. Age is fiction. In the audience our capacity for empathy, phantasy-visions take place because we mirror the actors on stage – we project desire on a character. As ZEAMI, the Japanese theatres drama-turgy canon describes – we can move audiences.

Suzanne Osten is an award-winning director and writer of theatre and film. She was the Artistic Director of Unga Klara theatre company 1975–2014 and Professor in Directing, Dramatic Institute, Stockholm 1996–2009. Suzanne Osten was member of the Group for Artistic Research, Swedish Research council, 2001–2007. She became Honorary doctor at Lund University 2002. Suzanne Osten was awarded the 2021 Guldbagge Award of Honour. As a theatre director, Osten alternates between adult productions and those for a younger audience, but there are no stringent divisions between these two areas of performance. A performance for 10 to 12 years old, can work equally well for an adult audience. She has highlighted the status of women in Swedish contemporary society through theatre and film. Her work often treats challenging topics. The most important however is the artistic quality of the production; all built together with artists in the field of scenography, acting and music.

## BODY PERFORMING BODY Amir Parsa

(Concluding  
Fantasmagorical  
Postscript to Previous  
Actions Connecting  
Arts and Ageing)

A missive. A delirious dérive. Or an actual manifesto for reconceptualizing ageing as a durational artwork itself—straddling between performative, relational and conceptual threads, where the body emancipates itself from the grips of predefined functions. A program to reexamine the body's performance of itself, where traditional systems and institutional visions are undermined, the terms and conceptual frameworks revisited, and a new paradigm envisaged that provides a radical possibility where the body itself is performed in all sorts of liberated and unforeseen ways.

Amir Parsa is the Founding Director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies and Curator of Individualized Learning at Pratt Institute in New York, where he also directs—and teaches in—the Pratt Integrative Courses program. He was the director of the award winning and ground-breaking MoMA Alzheimer's Project. As an internationally acclaimed writer, poet, translator, newformist and cultural designer, Amir Parsa's curatorial interjections, performances, conceptual piece and subversions, along with photographic, participatory and exhibition-based projects have taken place in a host of galleries, public spaces and environments. His trajectory linking the arts and creative ageing realms has taken him from working as a teaching artist embedded and working immersively with older adults, to directing the game-changing (avant-garde!) MoMA Alzheimer's project, to serving as a thinker/creative on the boards of several organizations concerned with the design of structures that support programs for older adults.

## REBIRTH Takao Momiyaama

Artist Takao Momiyaama will talk about boro and the traditional repair technique sashiko. It is about the ageing and rebirth of the fabric through reuse and repair. In the lecture Momiyaama gives as an example, how he practices his ideas by systematically reusing his own clothes and how to examine the Japanese textile tradition by collecting textiles and reconstruct life of fabrics.

Takao Momiyaama was born in Japan in 1951, educated at Konstfack, University of Arts, Craft and Design (Textile) in Stockholm. and works as artist and Martial Arts trainer outside of Simrishamn. Momiyaama grew up in a Japanese rural society – before the consumer lifestyle took over – a living culture of knowledge transfer based on making use of small resources. Takao Momiyaama's selected exhibition activities: Vandalarum (Värnamo), Boro, Östasiatiska Museet, (Stockholm), Österlens Museum (Simrishamn), Sörmlands Museum (Nyköping), Trelleborgs museum, Swedish Embassy in Tokyo. He has received several grants from The Swedish Arts Grants Committee and is a member of Fiber Art Sweden and KKV Textil Malmö.

## LEAVING FOR HEAVEN (AS A STARTING POINT) Marja-Leena Sillanpää

In this talk artist Marja-Leena Sillanpää will present the project Leaving for heaven as well as discuss other artistic projects that relates to ageing and death. The project Leaving for heaven started December 22nd 2002 with the artist's dead mother Sirkka-Liisa Sillanpää at Nyköpings hospital and until this day there has been 127 completed ascensions. Marja-Leena Sillanpää states that everything starts with the birth and at the same time starts with dying. She says: "When I came to her bed she was already dead. I was alone with her for some hours and after a long while, exhausted by grief, I became tired so I took off my boots and lay down to rest with my mother one last time".

Marja-Leena Sillanpää is an interdisciplinary and process-oriented Swedish artist, born in Finland and currently based in Stockholm. Sillanpää's performance-, installation-, sound- and text-based practices explore how we exist, depending on time and environment, both physically and mentally. By using different methods and techniques to collect, very often with the human existence as a tool to organize and present different possibilities, she transforms everyday objects and phenomena into art that offers basic perspectives. She explores the inherent history of what happened or should happen in our existence, as well as the individual and collective unconscious and subconscious. Marja-Leena says: I show that we can take our view of human's superiority under review, because we will, no matter how we choose to move forward, be forced to step back and start all over again.

