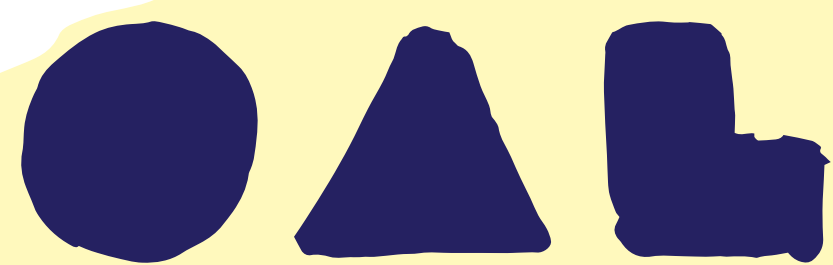


On Culture and Democracy

ARTS, EDUCATION AND YOUTH IN CHALLENGING TIMES



INTRODUCTION

Today, growing up is a challenge. The world situation is characterised by, among other things, climate challenges, increasing migration, recessions, wars and economic conflicts. The right of children and young people to education, art and culture is under threat by politics of austerity that value economic goals higher than culture's contribution. Considering this, children's and young people's access to artistic and cultural practice can be seen as an asset to protect equal conditions and the right to freedom of expression. Children and young people who are given the opportunity to become actors in art and cultural life are also provided the opportunity to raise their voices through art and actions to promote democratic values.

Children and young people have right to meaningfully participate in society and have access to art, culture, cultural heritage and education; rights that are enshrined in Swedish law through the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Through talks, workshops and seminars, artists, designers, musicians, educators, and researchers discuss the complex questions surrounding the conditions of children and young people by relating them to artistic practices. Aesthetic creation, as well as children's and young people's right to cultural heritage, the experience of cultures and cultural encounters, sensual and provocative art experiences, are necessary experiences that contribute to strengthening children's and young people's knowledge of their place in society

BIOGRAPHIES

Angeliki Dimaki Adolfsen is a Greek-Norwegian design researcher and designer. She is currently a PhD-student at Academy of Art and Design, working in the intersection of Design and Migration Studies. Through her project *Border Play(spaces)*, she investigates the spatial and temporal aspects of play, through the lens of design in the Greek borderlines. Angeliki gained her BA in Interior Architecture and Design from the Technological Institute of Athens. She then moved to Oslo where she got her MA in Design from the Oslo School of Architecture and Design in 2010.

In **Yiva Ågren's** research, children's perspective is a central starting point as it focuses on children's rights in relation to social media. She is also interested in the popular and media culture that children and young people encounter, use and produce in their everyday lives. She is a member of the research network BIG - Child Culture Research in Gothenburg. **Yelyzaveta Hrechanuk** is interested in issues related to children, culture and values in various contexts such as charity or acts of terrorism and cultural heritage. How can we understand this far from obvious connection between children's culture and remembrance and cultural heritage, for example things that are associated with children's culture and play – such as stuffed animals, toys and drawings – and which have become an obvious part of spontaneous places of remembrance and which are preserved in memorial collections as archival material?

Helen Arfvidsson is a Ph.D. in Political Science focusing on international relations and human rights. As a curator at the World Culture Museum, she is interested in museum pedagogy and the importance that the museum as a learning environment can have for children and young people as a complement to the junior high school. In her research, she has written about design-oriented learning in relation to the museum and how exhibitions can be staged as resources for learning and education.

Kerstin Bergendal works as an artist at the intersection of critical art practice, participatory urbanism, and dialogical listening practices. She performs temporary but durational, and large-scale interventions in public or semi-public spaces such as *Apropos en Eng /Concerning A Meadow* (2019-2024), *Man låner ikke nåle i Herning* (2019), *PARK LEK* (2010 -2014), *Trekröner Konstplan* (2001-2011). She is a member of the artist-run initiative *LOKALE* (2018-), co-founder of *TAPKO* - a nomadic platform for site-specific strategies (1991-2019), and former head of *Overgaden Institute of Contemporary Art* (1996-2002). She is currently a Senior Lecturer of Fine Arts at the Academy of Art and Design, University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

Catharina Dyrssen is Professor Emerita in Architecture at Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg. She is also Co-supervisor at the Academy of Music and Drama (HSM). **Anders Hultqvist** is a Professor of Musical Performance with a focus on composition and Vice Prefect for Research at the University of Gothenburg's College of Music and Drama (HSM).

Sandra Hillén's research deals, among other things, with how children can be involved in urban planning processes, an area of research that also touches on children's rights as expressed in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Another research interest is how children's access to culture and cultural institutions looks like and how children are represented in such contexts, for example in cultural history museums' exhibitions. In addition to Gender studies, **Jeanette Sundhall** teaches children's and youth culture, cultural analysis and Scandinavian Studies and the teacher and preschool teacher program. Her research often deals with issues surrounding children's right to participation, protection and care and how democratic issues find a place in school. Both of them are members of the research network BIG - Child Culture Research in Gothenburg.

DesignKlubben (The Design Club) is one part of how the Röhsska Museum works with pedagogy and outreach. Together with children and youth in Biskopsgården, the Design Club explores what design is – and what it could be. From working with the 'student council' at elementary school Ryaskolan, to activating an abandoned park – the Design Club investigates different scales of design and participatory creative processes, where children and youth are active partners in every step. Representing the Design Club for this presentation is **Anna Hydén** (project manager) & **Benjamin Hadzifezovic** (former design ambassador & supervisor in the Design Club).

Luka Jelusic is a designer and landscape architect, and lecturer at HDK-Valand Steneby (Wood Oriented Furniture Design program). **Eva-Johanna Isestig** is an interior architect specialised in Child Culture Design and lecturer at HDK-Valand (Design program). They both believe in the power of collaborating by materialising in full scale at the actual site and situation together with users. In educational context and in rural community development projects they have combined their different backgrounds into a team that embraces all scales. Together they work with participatory design and collective building practices, and through artistic research explore new methods of spatial production in close collaboration with communities.

Lekkontoret: Catherine Paterson and Luke de Jager are both South African child culture designers living and working in Gothenburg, Sweden. Catherine has a background in fine art and community art practices and specializes in participatory process with children and youth. She also teaches within the Child Culture Design master's programme at the University of Gothenburg. Luke studied visual communication before completing his master's in Child Culture Design and also worked as a designer for the child-centered spatial design studio, *SeeSawDo*, in Cape Town, South Africa. Alongside Lekkontoret, Luke works part-time as a playworker at a school in Gothenburg.

Linda Sternö is unit manager for Film, Photography and Literary Design at HDK-Valand and has previously taught in film studies within the government's initiative *Kulturskoleklivet*. She has a Bachelor's degree in Film direction and a High school teacher's degree in Media subjects but also a Master's degree in Visual culture and learning with focus on visual pedagogy. She has many years of experience in film production where she has directed and produced films for television and cinema. She is a member of BIG - Child Culture Research in Gothenburg.

Catharina Thörn is Professor of Sociology at the Department of Cultural Sciences at the University of Gothenburg. In Thörn's research emphasis has been on analyzing social change processes where power has a central role focusing on the local public, urban development, public relations, power and resistance, but also marginalized youth. Her scientific and pedagogical entry is in critically and politically operating in the public domain and developing new methods for teaching and the role of research.

Christina Vildinge is Development Manager Research & Innovation, Urban Environment Department, City of Gothenburg. She has a double educational background in management at the School of Economics, Business Administration & Law, and design at the School of Arts and Crafts, Gothenburg University, where she is doctoral student in design. Her dissertation focus on the night city in the intersection between design, organization and urban studies. A central topic of the work is collaboration in relation to urban spaces and the interaction between public institutions and citizens. Christina combines her experience from business and aesthetic experience with sustainability and value creation. She has worked many years as studio manager at *White Architects Landscape & Visualization studio* and has long experience working with collaboration, urban development and urban spaces.

Wednesday
24th of April
2024
8.30 - 18.00hrs

Världskulturmuseet
Södra Vägen 54
412 54
Göteborg

Organised in collaboration with the Museum of World Culture, Göteborg
BIG – Barnkulturforskning i Göteborg at the Faculty of Humanities, University of Gothenburg.
ERA – Educational Research in the Arts and PLACE – Public Life, Arts and Critical Engagement at the Artistic Faculty, University of Gothenburg.

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