

## **SKÅNE SOCIAL ART FORUM**

### *Utopia Station*

**Idea:** Today there are many artists who are socially engaged and work politically. Art and the artist's relationship to reality, politics, and the public are ever more important. Social processes, meetings between people, and art as a trampoline to a public discourse are significant in today's art and cultural life.

The Exhibit/Workshops *Utopia Station* is an attempt to activate, influence, and make possible critical reflections in urban space through art. Artists and artist groups from Sweden, Denmark, and Germany will be participating in the exhibit, which is not intended to offend or amuse, rather the opposite, it's intended to bring together, remold, and create in the democratic process.

**Where and why:** Lund is a town where many people cross paths on the way to and from work, the university and school. Stortorget (the Big Square) functions as a central point and a meeting place. The idea with *Utopia Station* is to create an exhibition in a public place - Stortorget - where artists and artist groups can work with political themes in a critical and new way. At Lunds Konsthall (Lund's Art Hall), which is located close by, participating artists and artist groups will be holding open workshops in parallel with the exhibition. The goal is to bring to the surface important and often invisible issues and to get the onlooker to start questioning.

**The global level:** Through art create a political situation or a social activity. To let individual efforts (both from the artist and the onlooker) contribute in the creation of a public discourse. It's about globalization, about confronting and dealing with globalization, about finding ways to comment and criticize globalization.

**The local level:** Placing an exhibit in Lund encourages examination of both the historical and the current environment, as well as different alternative ways of living and acting. The university town was confronted with revolutionary artistic ideas already during the 1960s. In the spirit of the May revolution Skandinaviens Situationistiska Bauhaus (the Scandinavian Situational Bauhaus) carried out several heavily discussed demonstrations and art actions on the town streets.

**Presentation:** Stortorget is the arena where the artists will gather together and build their own stations, each choosing the form and scale to work in. The exhibition is outdoors, free, and open to the general public. Workshops will be held at the same time in Lunds

Konsthall. The artists and artist groups will each give a lecture where they discuss their art and their engagement. Afterwards seminars will be held around the theme *political art and art with social consequences*. The workshop will conclude with a round of discussions about how art (utopically) can develop.

The exhibit will be held in conjunction with the Skåne Social Forum (SSF) which will be held in several nearby buildings, including Stadshallen (the Town Hall), Lilla Teatern (the Little Theater), and Kino (a movie theater). All these different activities in the city create a unique opportunity to let art and politics meet and create an intense and productive exchange.

**When:** 7-9 May, 2004.

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**For whom:** Anyone interested in art and/or politics, including visitors to Lunds Konsthall och participants of the Skåne Social Forum (SSF).

**Marketing och PR:** Promotion and PR are being done in collaboration with the SSF.

**The Skåne Social Forum:** The World Social Forum was born in 2001 in Porto Alegre Brazil from the roots of the growing global justice movement. Nowadays forums are independently arranged around the entire world in order to find new ways to interact economically, socially, and politically. There is an enormous need to reach beyond protests and demonstrations, to create and share positive ideas about building vibrant democracy and justice on all levels. The Skåne Social Forum will take place for the second time in Lund at the same time as Social Forums will be taking place in both Stockholm and Uppsala.

### **Documentation:**

Workshops will be documented with video. Exhibits will be documented digitally. A final report/analysis will be created and shared with participating artists and other collaboration partners, as well as placed on the net.

**Curator:** Caroline Lund - born in Tranås, Sweden in 1973. Resident in Berlin from 1993-2003. Artistic education at Udk in Berlin 1996-2002, with Prof. Katharina Sieverding. Currently

studying at Malmö Högskola (Malmö University) to creative producer. Most recent exhibits: Riga, Berlin, Stockholm and Trondheim 2003/2004, via a stipend recipient from the Network Baltic (see [www.networkbaltic.net](http://www.networkbaltic.net)) as a multidisciplinary and political project in connection with the Haus der Demokratie und Menschenrechte, HdD, in Berlin. Caroline wants to work with socially engaged art in the future.

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