

FOUNTAINS FAILURES FUTURES: THE AFTERLIVES OF PUBLIC ART

Symposium
September 28-30, 2023

Skissernas Museum – Museum of Artistic Process and Public Art
Lund, Sweden



The LTH Fountain, 1968. Photo: Sydsvenska Dagbladet Söndagsposten. Graphic design: Jonas Williamsson.

PROGRAM

DAY 1

Thursday 28 September

Locations: Until 10:30: Ingvar Kamprad Designcentrum, LTH, Sölvegatan 26. Tram stop: Ideontorget.

10:50 and on: Birgit Rausing's Sal, Skissernas Museum, Finngatan 2.

09:30-09:50

Coffee and welcome at Bryggan kafé och kök, Designcentrum. Guest: Viktor Öwall, Pro vice-chancellor Lund University and former Dean of the Faculty of Engineering/LTH.

10:00-10:30

Meet the LTH Fountain. Circumnavigation 'Walk and Talk' in groups. English and Swedish language options.

10:30-10:45

Walk to Skissernas Museum, Finngatan 2.

10:50-11:10

Fountains Failures Futures: an introduction

Maddie Leach introduces 'Fountains Failures Futures: The afterlives of public art' as part of a four-year project titled 'The Fountain: An art-technological-social drama'. The project was proposed for a collaborative research call by five Swedish governmental agencies seeking to "highlight aesthetic perspectives and the role of public art in sustainable public architecture and design". Basing our work in relation to the 'LTH Fountain', we are interested in questions of sustainability, custodianship, revitalisation, authorship, and ownership of public artworks.

11:15-12:15

Case studies

Carla Cruz

aapA (association of friends of the Anjo square)
– A (not so) public square, a stolen statue,
the right to the city, aapA as an anti-monument

The theft of a bronze sculpture from a public square in the Portuguese city of Porto triggered the creation of an artistic project around public space, art, and the right to the city. From this event, and after 15 years of observation and action, this presentation considers cultural and political participation in our contemporary cities and questions around the creation and maintenance of public artworks and monuments.

Carla Cruz is an artist, researcher, and lecturer. Since 2007 Carla has coordinated the Associação de Amigos da Praça do Anjo with Ângelo Ferreira de Sousa.

James Carey

last night I dreamt of fountains

As the driest inhabited continent on Earth, Australia's relationship to water is contentious. 'last night I dreamt of fountains' is a discussion regarding our collective concern, and critical relationship, to water custodianship. This will be demonstrated through the presentation of two

public art works, and a current research project archiving active, dormant, and obsolete public water fountains in Naarm/Melbourne.

Dr. James Carey is an artist and senior lecturer in Interior Design, School of Architecture and Urban Design, RMIT University, Naarm/Melbourne.

12:15

Lunch break (do your own thing)

13:15-14:45

Case studies

doris duhennois

Reclaiming "la fontaine Gueydon",
from slavery to resistance

This presentation focuses on a fountain built in the mid-19th century in colonised Martinique. Erected by settlers to celebrate the arrival of water, it bears witness to the work of forced labourers. Using archival documents and interviews with present-day Martiniquais, I discuss how neglect and decay have been used to challenge this site and reclaim the space it occupies.

doris duhennois is a PhD candidate at the University of Winchester, studying the legacy of French and British colonialism through material heritage in the Lesser Antilles.

Alex Hale & Gina Wall

Surfacing fading failure in Garnethill Park

Over the past 40 years Garnethill Park in inner city Glasgow has been the site of several public art interventions, from murals to a pyramid with accompanying waterfall, opened by Princess Diana in 1991. Recently a pizza oven was built using materials salvaged from the fire in 2014 at the Glasgow School of Art. These interventions, that redistribute materials and matter from the surrounding landscape, pose a range of questions around ruin, time, and re-materialising artefacts.

Dr Alex Hale is a Teaching Fellow at the University of Edinburgh and an Engagement Officer at Historic Environment Scotland. He also co-ordinates an international research network, funded by the Royal Society of Edinburgh, that considers Contemporary Archaeology in Scotland.

Dr Gina Wall is a practice-based researcher working collaboratively with academics from a range of disciplines. She is Programme Director for The Glasgow School of Art's Highlands & Islands Campus.

Gabriela Saenger Silva

New Memeseum and public art polls: a case study
of collective approval on Instagram of Brazilian
public monuments, statues, and sculptures

New Memeseum (@newmemeseum) is an Instagram account that showcases an irreverent collection of memes, highlighting aesthetics of Brazilian everyday life and the contemporary art system. Created during the COVID-19 pandemic, it gained popularity for its ability to capture and reflect news and trends from the digital

universe. This presentation explores the account's use of public polling as a vehicle of critique towards public monuments and their symbolic attachment to history and colonialism.

Gabriela Saenger Silva is an arts practitioner and researcher specialising in education and socially engaged practices. She is a PhD candidate at the Exhibition Research Lab, at Liverpool John Moores University.

14:45–15:00
Coffee break

15:00
Jes Fernie
Cracks and how to deal with them

The destruction of public artworks is often viewed as a shameful display of failure. Can we rethink this response and embrace the idea of destruction as a potentially transformative, expansive, cathartic act which revels in unruly, unknowable live contexts, and offers opportunities for the accrual of new narratives? Drawing on examples of artworks in the online 'Archive of Destruction', Jes will also be talking about love, fear, rage and boredom.

Jes Fernie is an independent curator, writer, and lecturer. Many of her projects are situated in the public realm beyond gallery walls. In 2021 she launched the 'Archive of Destruction', a research project that brings together narratives around public sculpture that have been destroyed by rage, boredom, fear, greed, and love.

- 3 Respondent: Feras Hammami, researcher, writer, and Senior Lecturer in Critical Heritage Studies at University of Gothenburg. Followed by open discussion.

16:15–16:25
Coffee break

16:30
Dan Karlholm
Re-sourcing the 'LTH Fountain'

'The LTH Fountain' is no more, it has lost its "fons" (source) and relevance as a decorative element of the pre-politicized early 1960s, using tap water and electrical pumps to entertain tech students and tourists. While always unsustainable as such, what remains of it today could provide a basis for a new life in relation to a different world, involving a new relationship to the elements, or so I will argue.

Dan Karlholm is a writer, art historian and Professor of Art History at Södertörn University in Stockholm. His research is on the theory and historiography of art, temporality, museum studies and effects of the Anthropocene. Dan was Editor-in-chief of 'Konsthistorisk tidskrift/Journal of Art History' 2009–2019.

Respondent: Ingo Vetter, artist and Professor of Sculpture at the University of the Arts Bremen. Followed by open discussion

17:45–19:00
Film screenings

'Thomasson on Campus?' A work-in-progress
by Lars-Henrik Ståhl

Lund University's 'LTH Fountain' shows resemblances to the type of objects associated with a Japanese conceptual art movement known as 'Hyperart Thomasson' in the 1980s. The movement documented useless urban leftovers – structures with a former function, discovered as part(s) of buildings or the built environment. In this context, Thomasson objects stand out as "strange objects that appear accidentally in the process of urban transformation".

'In Between Blue Waves and Green Corridors'
(2020) by Hans Houwelingen et al

In 2017, the Municipality of Arnhem in the Netherlands planned to demolish the iconic environmental 70s artwork 'Blue Waves' by artist Peter Struycken, to make way for a new park development within its Green Corridor project. Artist Hans van Houwelingen recruited a group of art students and young artists to start a research project on the context in which this development takes place. This film follows their two-year project on the 'politics' of cultural heritage in the Netherlands. It has previously screened at Documenta 15, Kassel and Sonsbeek 20–24, Arnhem. 70 minutes.

DAY 2

Friday 29 September

Location: Birgit Rausing's Sal, Skissernas Museum,
Finngatan 2.

09:15

Welcome back & introductory thoughts. Cathryn Klasto
and Lars-Henrik Ståhl

09:30

Patrick Amsellem
"LTH Fountain" and the Public Art Agency Sweden

Patrick will place the 'LTH Fountain' in the context of Public Art Agency Sweden's site-specific commissions since its founding in 1937. His talk will touch on realised and unrealised visionary public art projects, public art as cultural heritage, and the challenges in caring for public art works over a longer period. He will also briefly introduce a newly developed method for evaluation of public art based on aesthetic and cultural-historical aspects.

Patrick Amsellem is Director of the Public Art Agency Sweden. He was previously Director of Skissernas Museum – Museum of Artistic Process and Public Art in Lund, and Associate Curator of Photography at the Brooklyn Museum, New York.

Respondent: Mattias Kärrholm, writer, researcher and Professor of Architectural Theory at the Department of Architecture and Built Environment, Lund University. Followed by open discussion.

10:35-10:50

Coffee break

10:50-12:20

Case studies

Jenny Perlin

Nancy Holt's Star-Crossed: an unbuilding

We didn't know what it was, but we loved it. We gripped the inside of the tube, wiggling headfirst down the top tunnel trying to see our reflections. Or feet-first, the zigzag lines of our shoe soles mirrored just before we slid out and off to the side. We felt at home there, aligned with ourselves in this unknown structure that allowed for our bodies and extended them.

Jenny Perlin is a visual artist, filmmaker and writer. She directs The Hoosac Institute, an online curatorial platform and is a research fellow at the Academy of Fine Art at the Konsthøgskolen i Oslo (Oslo National Academy of Art).

Jason E. Bowman
The Unknown Student

Feet crossed. Knees winged. Elbows crooked. Hands on ankles. Dorsal arched. Head down. Derek Heinzerling's sculpture 'The Unknown Student' (1969) was conceptualised and fabricated amidst a co-operative residence and experimental free university, Rochdale College in Toronto, Canada. The college closed in 1975 but the sculpture

perseveres as exhibitable. What can be re-thought about public artworks through 'The Unknown Student', when the conditions from which it sprung have uncoiled?

Jason E. Bowman is an artist with a curatorial practice. He is Programme Director of the MFA Fine Art at HDK-Valand Academy, University of Gothenburg.

Anahi Alviso Marino
Lives 'not-well-lived' of monuments across
cities of the Arabian Peninsula

This presentation focuses on a selection of monuments in cities of the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf countries – stories of failure and dysfunction, of lives 'not-well-lived' of objects meant to fix time, space, and collective memory. Monuments can be dysfunctional for different reasons such as technical failure, when parts of it are missing or are purposefully erased from their story (a plinth, a plaque, a part of a sculpture), or they are rejected and destroyed. I explore whether dysfunctional monuments can still be monuments, or what do they become?

Anahi Alviso-Marino is a political scientist, postdoctoral research fellow and co-coordinator at the collective 'Penser l'urbain par l'image', Ecole des Ponts ParisTech.

12:30

Lunch break (do your own thing)

13:30-15:45

Case studies

Ana Cristina Panseira de Araujo
Supercuia, a gift or a curse? Divergences
in art appreciation in public spaces

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This presentation is about the afterlife of the sculpture 'Supercuia' (2003) created by the artist Saint Clair Cemin and installed at Porto Alegre in Brazil. The artwork is included in the Mercosul Visual Arts Biennial Foundation (MVAB) collection, yet there have been continuous efforts to bring the monument down. This has generated much discussion about the role of public art in the city and the decision-making processes around it.

Ana Cristina Panseira de Araujo is an artistic researcher, performance artist, poet, and cultural producer with a master's degree in Theater and Performance Arts Program from National University of Arts in Buenos Aires.

Louise Rollman
The Aftermath of Public Art Built-in and Built-out

In analysing the aftermath of the Queensland state government's 'Art Built-in' policy (Australia, 1999-2007), once a world-leading public art policy, this presentation questions whether such a contested policy can be thought anew and ultimately reconstituted. Interrogating the perceived and actual failures of this influential policy offers productive insights to improve arts advocacy, policy development, and address political neglect.

Louise Rollman (PhD) is an independent curator based in Australia and specialising in commissioning contemporary art for the public realm.

14:30-14:45
Coffee break

Åsa Stjerna

After Sound: Proposal for a transversal
toolkit for public art management

This presentation has a specific focus on sound-based artworks and questions of maintenance. My aim is to shed light on unarticulated knowledge that, I argue, is central to the existence of permanent public [sound] art over long durations. I do this by outlining a toolkit for commissioners and managers of permanent [sound] art that proposes transversal thinking and acting in public art processes.

Åsa Stjerna is a Swedish artist, researcher, and educator. She is currently involved with the international postdoctoral research project 'Sonic Visions of the Arctic' funded by The Swedish Research Council.

Hans van Houwelingen with Bram Kuypers &
Constanze Schreiber
In Between Blue Waves and Green Corridors

In relation to the intended demolition of Peter Struycken's iconic environmental artwork 'Blue Waves' (1977) in Arnhem, students of the Dutch art academy ArteZ undertook two years of research on the 'politics' of cultural heritage in the Netherlands. In the resulting film 'In Between Blue Waves and Green Corridors' we see those who enable art – those who value, preserve and safeguard art – as protagonists in an inscrutable drama of the "culture" in which cultural heritage is embedded.

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Hans van Houwelingen is an artist who lives and works in Amsterdam and Berlin. His work is manifested in the form of exhibitions, interventions, projects in public space, films, lectures, and publications.

15:45-16:00
Coffee break

16:00

Lisa Le Feuvre

Failure, Desire, and Rumour: the eternal
lives of outdoor sculpture

Outdoor sculpture lives a life defined by failure and desire. Eternal, monumental, timeless, universal, visible, remarkable, permanent, enduring: these are the adjectives that swarm around sculpture outside the museum – be it placed in the city or in the landscape. Sculpture outdoors often exceeds its own materiality and location through representation. They travel through the world as photographs, as postcards, as backdrops for events. These rumours create charismatic sculptural fictions that always disappoint. Considering statues, public sculpture and Land Art, Lisa celebrates the inescapable relationships outdoor sculpture has with those very human experiences of failure, desire, and rumour.

Lisa Le Feuvre is a curator, writer, and editor. She is the inaugural Executive Director of Holt/Smithson Foundation in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Between 2010 and 2017 Le Feuvre directed the Henry Moore Institute, a centre for the study of sculpture. She has written extensively on the

idea of failure as a productive force and was editor for the Documents of Contemporary Art edition titled 'Failure' (2010).

Respondent: Jonatan Habib Engqvist, independent curator, writer, and current editor of Swedish cultural magazine 'Ord & Bild'. Followed by open discussion.

17:10-17:25

Closing thoughts and observations by Mick Wilson.

17:30

Join us for a complimentary drink in the Birgit Rausing's Sal. A cash bar is then available to 19:00.

DAY 3

Saturday 30 September

Location: Birgit Rausing's Sal, Skissernas Museum,
Finngatan 2.

10:00-12:30

Closed session for organisers, symposium speakers and
presenters.

THE FOUNTAIN RESEARCH TEAM

Cathryn Klasto, Researcher and Lecturer in Fine Arts,
HDK-Valand Academy of Art & Design, University of
Gothenburg, cathryn.klasto@gu.se

Maddie Leach (project leader), Artist and Senior Lecturer
in Fine Arts, HDK-Valand Academy of Art & Design,
University of Gothenburg, maddie.leach@hdk-valand.gu.se

Lars-Henrik Ståhl, Professor of Architecture at the
Department of Architecture and Built Environment, Lund
University, lars-henrik.stahl@abm.lth.se

Mick Wilson, Researcher and Professor in Fine Arts,
HDK-Valand Academy of Art & Design, University of
Gothenburg, mick.wilson@akademinvaland.gu.se

THE CONTEXT: GESTALTAD LIVSMILJÖ/ DESIGNED LIVING ENVIRONMENT

In 2020, a national call towards Gestaltad livsmiljö/
Designed Living Environment was made through a unique
collaboration between Formas (a Swedish Research
Council for Sustainable Development), Boverket (Swedish
National Board of Housing, Building and Planning),
Riksantikvarieämbetet (Swedish National Heritage Board),
ArkDes (Swedish Centre for Architecture and Design), and
Statens konstråd (Public Art Agency Sweden). The aim of
the call was to highlight aesthetic perspectives and the
role of public art in sustainable public architecture and
design.

Ten interdisciplinary research projects on the role of
public art were each awarded a four-year research grant.
'The Fountain: An art technological-social drama' is one
of those projects, and this symposium 'Fountains Failures
Futures: The afterlives of public art' is a key part of our
research process.

Contact

Maddie Leach (project leader),
maddie.leach@hdk-valand.gu.se

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FORMAS



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WALKING TIMES

From Lund Cathedral to Designcentrum at LTH is about 25 minutes.

From the LTH Fountain to Skissernas Museum is about 12 minutes. Use the QR code below for directions.

From Lund Cathedral to Skissernas Museum is about 8 minutes.

FOOD & DRINK

We can happily recommend these places in Lund for food and drink. Remember that many businesses in Sweden don't accept cash as payment.

Near Skissernas

Cheap lunch: Café Lux, Helgonavägen 3, inside Lund University's Humanist och Teologcentrum.

Restaurang Sol, Helgonabacken 12, inside Lund

University's Språk och Littercentrum.

Vegetarian lunch: Govindas, Bredgatan 28. Canteen-style Krishna restaurant. Simple tasty food, cheap, and there's a nice courtyard.

Classic lunch: Linnérs Mat, Sandgatan 10. Usually offers a fish/meat option and a vegetarian option. Great, simple food. Popular with academic staff.

More expensive lunch: På Skissernas, Skissernas Museum. Notable restaurant with an inventive menu, always one vegetarian option. Wine and beer.

In the city centre

Coffee: Love Coffee, Klostergatan 1L. Best coffee. Also has pastries and simple sandwiches.

Falafel: Clemens Falafel, Sankt Petri kyrkogata 19. A small street kiosk with many local fans.

7 Hotel bar: The Grand Hotel, Bantorget 1. The hotel opened in 1899 and is a beloved landmark in Lund. Comfortable seats and good cocktails.

Hummus: Hummus Bar, Bangatan 8. Relatively new in town, affordable with nice variations on the theme. Good for vegans.

Local institution: Café Ariman, Kungsgatan 2C. Simple café food, mostly vegetarian, beer and wine. Popular with students, locals and "Lund originals".

Lunch buffé: Africa Daily Market, Lilla Södergatan 7. Great food and very affordable. Meat and vegetarian options. Check opening times first.

Noodles: Five Flower Noodle Bar, Kungsgatan 2A. Busy and affordable. Good for solo dining. Closes at 8pm. Has one excellent vegan option.

Pizza slices: Folk Pizza och Bar, Clemenstorget 4. Wood-fired, tasty choices, wine & beer.

Restaurant/Bar: The Herbivore, Bredgatan 2. Fully plant-based menu includes burgers and bowls. Good wine and beer.

Sushi: Aiko Sushi, Stora Södergatan 20. Good quality at reasonable prices, eat in or take out. Closes 9.30pm.

Across the railway tracks

Pizza restaurant: La Cucina, Hantverksgatan 8. Popular local place for excellent Italian pizza, pasta, and wine.

Vegan: Minù, Vävaregatan 17. Close to the train station, lunch only café. Fresh and tasty food, also vegan cakes & biscuits.

GETTING THE TRAM TO LTH

Lund has one tram line running from Clemenstorget (the public square next to Lund Central Station) to the European Spallation Source (ESS) north of the LTH campus. Trams depart every 15-20 minutes. There are two stops at LTH: "LTH" followed by "Ideontorget". Use Ideontorget for Bryggan kafé och kök. You can buy a ticket via the machine inside the tram by blipping your bank card, or use the Skånetrafiken app.



Map for the LTH Fountain
[55.711013, 13.208855](#)