

“HAPPY CAMPERS”

— AN INTERACTIVE EXHIBITION WITH SWEDISH DESIGN GROUPS

—
MAY 21 – 23, SKYLIGHT STUDIOS
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Curated by Fredrik Helander, Johanna Lenander and Brett Littman.

“Happy Campers” is an interactive exhibition/workshop that will grow and evolve during the Mobile Living exhibition at Skylight studios on May 21-23 coinciding with the ICFF fair in NY. Four young collaborative design groups from Sweden: Defyra, Research and Development, Uglycute and We Work In A Fragile Material, will build their installations and lead workshops on site that will include and engage the viewing public. Our metaphorical ‘camp ground’ will explore issues of collaboration, social interaction, the Swedish relationship to nature, and mobile living.

The curators’ intentions, which have been developed over a two year period in close collaboration with the design groups, are to create an environment where ideas are born, exchanged and discussed. We are not interested in focusing on design products as an end in themselves but rather we want expose and highlight the activity of collaboration in the creative design process. Through this exhibition we hope to introduce American and international audiences to the active and innovative post-modern Swedish design scene. Many of the designers associated with this movement work together in groups, share their workspace and assignments and use each other as resources rather than competitors. In addition, the social, economic and political climate in Sweden is changing, moving from a

homogenous to a heterogeneous culture, which reflects more global influences and the increasingly multi-cultural population of the country. The groups chosen to participate in “Happy Campers” express these changes in their work by using tactics like humor, politics, debate, traditional craft, experimentation and self-expression, to represent the new cultural context they find themselves in. This exhibition is not about rejecting the old but rather is about embracing the suggestion of something new. We hope that you will join us in that action.

Brett Littman

Deputy Director
P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, A Museum of Modern Art Affiliate

Skylight Studios
275 Hudson Street at Spring Street
New York, NY 10012
Subway 1 and 9 to Canal Street, C&E to Spring Street.

— **Sunday May 21**

Opening hours 10 am to 8 pm
1 – 3 pm, workshop 1 – Research and Development
4 – 6 pm, workshop 2 – Defyra
8 – 1 pm, opening reception

Monday May 22

Opening hours 10 am to 6 pm
11 – 1 pm, workshop 3 – Uglycute
3 – 5 pm, workshop 4 – We Work In A Fragile Material

Tuesday May 23

Opening hours 10 am to 6 pm
3 – 5 pm “Campfire Discussion”, an informal talk with invited guests about the economics of collaboration.

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Press info: 212-674-7726
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Thanks to IASPIS, The Swedish Institute, The Consulate General of Sweden.

① A S P I S

DEFYRA

The design group defyra was founded in 2002 by members Anna Lång, Lena Thak Karlsson, Sanna Haverinen and Anna Hjert. All members attended Beckmans School of Design 1998-2001. Defyra work collectively together. Defyra work on independent design projects that are not commissioned, as well as with commissioned porcelain and glass, textile, wallpaper and furniture products. Besides the product related design work, they also take on assignments like exhibition design, curating, set design, lecturing, workshop organizing and teaching. Since their inception, defyra has participated in a large number of exhibitions. While many of these were held in Sweden, the majority were international events in countries such as Japan, UK, Italy, Germany and South Korea.

Clients in selection:

Beckmans School of Design, Stockholm
Stockholm City Theatre, Stockholm
Tokyo Style in Stockholm
Mono Gallery, Tokyo
Embassy of Sweden, Tokyo
Swedish Trade Council, Stockholm
Svensk Form, Stockholm
Cicci Jaukkuri, Tokyo
Namaiki, Tokyo

Exhibitions in selection:

2005
Seoul Design Festival, SETEC, Seoul, South Korea.
Konceptdesign, Nationalmuseum, Stockholm, Sweden.
Design Exhibition of Contemporary Style, Felissimo, New York.
Inspired by Cologne, imm Cologne, Köln, Germany.

2004

Winter Wonderland or How to Dress a Cold Platter, The Lighthouse, Glasgow.
Designed in Sweden, Museum of London, London.
Flower Picking, Strange Kinoko Dance Company, Set Design Tokyo.
Handicraft Workshop, Tokyo Designers Block, Tokyo.
Flyttar in. Hemma hos; Fredrik, Galleri Andréhn-Schiptjenko, Stockholm.
La dolce utopia e tutti frutti della defyra, Designersblock, Milan.

2003

Design Archipelago, Seoul Design Festival, Seoul.
Design Archipelago – Swedish Style Tokyo, The Swedish Embassy, Tokyo.
Invisible Wealth, Färgfabriken, Stockholm

Contact:

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1. Flower Picking. Stage design for Strange Kinoko Dance Company, Tokyo. Performed in Vitabergsparken, Stadsteatern, Stockholm, August 2004. A foam rubber world on stage.

2. La dolce utopia e tutti frutti della defyra. Installation at Designers Block, Milan, April 2004. Wooden lamp with defyra sticker.

3. Porcelain. Apple cup and leaf plate. Mono Gallery, Japan 2005.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The design office Research and Development works with graphic design and exhibitions for the most influential art and cultural institutions in Sweden. The group participates frequently in exhibitions in Sweden and abroad, the latest one in Paris at Palais de Tokyo, site de creation contemporaine, where they initiated and realized the project "An Alternative guide to Palais de Tokyo". Research and development frequently gives lectures at Swedish art- and design schools.

Clients in selection:

Palais de Tokyo, site de creation contemporaine, Paris
Moderna Museet, Stockholm
The National Museum of Fine Arts, Stockholm
National Swedish Television, SVT, Stockholm
The Swedish Trade Council, Stockholm
The Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Stockholm
Konstfack, University College of Arts, Crafts and Design, Stockholm
Index, The Swedish Contemporary Art Foundation, Stockholm

Exhibitions in selection:

2006
Notre histoire..., An Alternative Guide to Palais de Tokyo, Palais de Tokyo, Paris

2005

A Crash Course in Aesthetics, Ethics, Politics, Economy and History, The Embassy of Sweden, Tokyo (Curators)
Itanomthub, Mainsdoeuvres, Paris
Research and Development, Toi, Osaka
My World – New Crafts, Experimenta Design, Lisboa
Konceptdesign, The National Museum of Fine Arts, Stockholm

2004

Use and Misuse, Tokyo Designers Block, Tokyo
The Sound of Space, 66 East, Center for Urban Culture, Amsterdam.

2003

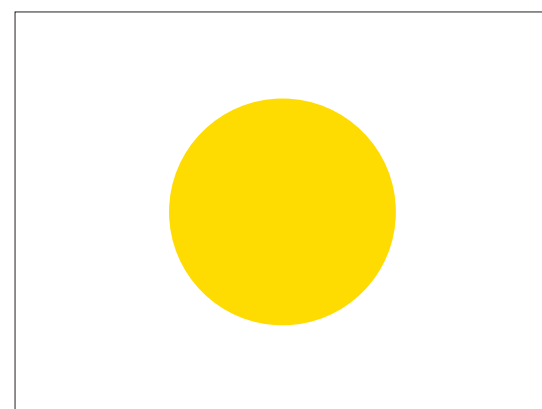
Research and Development, Sign Gallery, Tokyo
Sweatshop, Index, The Swedish Contemporary Art Foundation, Stockholm

2002

Fondation Pour L'Architecture, CIVA, Brussels
Vitra Design Museum, Berlin
National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, Dublin
International Furniture Fair, Milan
Circulo de Bellas Artes, Madrid

Contact:

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1. A guidebook to all the other things besides the art at an art institution. Things that may not always be so visible or noticed. A project by Research and Development for the french contemporary art institution Palais de Tokyo, site de création contemporaine, Paris.

2. Set design to a conference about taste at the Modern Museum in Stockholm. 17 participants in the panel debate, 17 different chairs. The participants were free to choose their seats.

3. "A yellow dot. Use it however you want". This was the manual to the client. Maxed out minimalism. Graphic identity for the annual design event Swedish Style Tokyo.

UGLYCUTE

Uglycute is a design group working to complicate the concept of design by looking at it as a complex web of style, politics, economy, materials, art and craft. Since Uglycute believes that all types of form, regardless of origin, has an implicit meaning, the group aims to explore them from a social and political perspective. Uglycute write articles, edit the "Katzenjammer" magazine, lecture and produce interiors and furniture. The members are Markus Degerman and Jonas Nobel, artists, Andreas Nobel, designer and Fredrik Stenberg, architect.

Clients in selection:

Konst 2, Stockholm
Sthlm. Artfair, Sweden
The Federation of Swedish Art Clubs, Stockholm
Magasin 3, Stockholm
The Swedish Embassy, Tokyo
Kulturhuset Cultural Center, Stockholm
Moderna Museet, Stockholm.

Exhibitions in selection:

2003
Invisible wealth, Färgfabriken, Stockholm
Utopia Station, La Biennale di Venezia
Design Mai, café Moskau, Berlin
Re-location, Superstudiopiu, Milan

2002

Stilen förde oss hit ("Style brought us here") Röhsska, Göteborg, (Curated by Uglycute & Mats Theselius)
Baltic Babel, Rooseum, Malmö
Agata, Svensk Form, Stockholm
2001
Agata, Svensk Form, Stockholm Stars, Galleri Inger Molin, Stockholm
3D+ Swedish Design on Stage, CIVA, Brussels, Vitra, Berlin, National Museum of Ireland, Dublin, Bevil 2, Living Art Museum Reykjavik

Contact:

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1. "Sonic house" for the "Utopia Station" part of the Venice biennale 2003.

2. "Modern Talking" exhibition architecture for galleri enkehuset Stockholm 2004.

3. Furniture design for Masonite the company which manufactures the material the furniture is made of. 2005.

WE WORK IN A FRAGILE MATERIAL

WWIAFM is a group of ten designers who work primarily with ceramics and glass: Andrea Djerf, Frida Fjellman, Gabriella Höglin, Jakob Robertsson, Linus Ersson, Ludvig Löfgren, Maria Boij, Pontus Lindvall, Sara Isaksson From and Åsa Jungnelius. WWIAFM incorporates ten different attitudes towards craft and its related fields, which the group considers to be stuff, objects, words, tchotchkes, techniques, opinions and methods. WWIAFM work together on projects, and for each project they elect a different project manager within the group, a different theme and a different context. They get together to work and exchange knowledge. They do this because craft is fun and interesting and because it's better to be ten than one.

Exhibitions in selection:

2005
WWIAFM at Röda Sten, The Craft Biennale, Gothenburg
The Workshop, Konst-ig, Stockholm
WWIFM with guest Åsa Cederqvist, Sthlm ArtFair, Stockholm

2004

WWIAFM at ak28, Stockholm
"You can do it", blås&knåda, Stockholm
Workshop "You can do it", a collaboration with Tensta Women's Center and Oda Projesi, Tensta Konsthall, Sweden
WWIAFM with guest Mariana Falkman, Skokloster Castle, Sweden
WWIAFM, Sthlm ArtFair, Stockholm

2003

WWIAFM, guest; Magnus Mattson Hem, Sweden

Contact:

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1. Slow: Dansvideo inspired by Kylie Minogue's "slow". To the Handicraft biennial exhibition in Gothenburg, Sweden 2005. Illustration to one of the themes of the exhibition, "groups finding new strategies for arts and crafts".

2. Eagle nest: The scout cottage "Örnnästet", Nacka, Stockholm. Seances at an occult phenomena weekend before the exhibition "Tingenes tillstånd" at Kunsthallen at Tullinlökka, Oslo april 2006.

3. You can do it: Public "troll-dough" workshop at Tensta art gallery and exhibition of the results at Blås&knåda, Stockholm 2004.

This white space is where the cover is going to be placed.