

EXISTING SYSTEMS

Artists:

Peter Hagdahl

Jenny Källman

Sophie Tottie

Ulla Wiggen

Harry Woodrow

March 15 – June 15, 2022

Villa Dagmar, The Garden, Nybrogatan 25-27, Stockholm

EXISTING SYSTEMS refers to the artistic practice where various methods and systems are a way forward towards developing new ideas and works. The exhibition includes both photography, painting and drawing, the participating artists are involved in recent and future book publications from Art and Theory. *EXISTING SYSTEMS* is part of the exhibition programme at Villa Dagmar run by Lovisa Malmström.

Peter Hagdahl (b. 1956) Since the early 1990s Hagdahl has worked with new media and is one of Sweden's most acclaimed artists within the field. Hagdahl's art grows out of an interactive process that involves dialogue and collaboration in diverse fields such as cultural theory, informatics, science and urbanism. Change, influence and transformation are key concepts for Hagdahl and his work comments on/investigates contemporary society as well as fundamental existential questions.

Jenny Källman's (b. 1973) work oscillates between documentary and staged photography and has been described as stills from a film, with her imagery in closely linked to the phantasies of the viewer. A recurring theme is the vulnerability of young people in strange new worlds, in open or closed spaces, she has also examined how people behave and interact in these spaces. Courtesy Björkholmen Gallery.

Sophie Tottie (b. 1964) examines topics with situation-specific, existential, political and historical reference points at the intersection of the individual and larger structural systems. How can we understand and interpret what is happening in our own time? Using techniques such as painting, drawing, sculpture, video and text Tottie's work demonstrates the changing aspects of complex and progressive ideas. An ongoing viewing, media reports, changed thought patterns, rewritten history, conditions and dreams.

Ulla Wiggen (b. 1942) began her career in the early 1960s when she created a suite of paintings depicting electronic components and computers. She was a pioneer who explored this world of

motifs as hardly anyone could foresee the revolution of digital technology. In 1966 she participated in the exhibition *9 Evenings: Theatre & Engineering, E.A.T.*, in New York while being an assistant to Öyvind Fahlström, whose art became a decisive inspiration for Ulla Wiggen's artistic development. In the 1970s, in parallel with her work as a psychotherapist, she painted a series of portraits. In recent years, her focus has shifted from the interior of computers and the human exterior to the inside of the human body, where her careful studies of our internal organs have increasingly come to concentrate on the brain and eye iris. Courtesy of Belenius.

Harry Woodrow (b.1974) #selfies documents Harry Woodrow's ongoing project of taking selfies whilst wearing a specially constructed reflective helmet. The artist becomes a mirror, so in each 'selfie' the viewer sees the surrounding environment, the mirrored box, the iPhone taking the photograph, and the photograph being taken within its screen. The book is illustrated with 76 examples of these recursive images, which Woodrow has been posting on a dedicated Instagram account since 2015.

Art and Theory is dedicated to publishing books with artists, writers, curators, cultural institutions, architects, designers and photographers. Since 2019 its director is Anna Kleberg Tham.

The founders of **Villa Dagmar**, the Malmström family, have been the owners of Hotel Diplomat since the 1960s. Art Curator Lovisa Malmström is the director of the exhibition programme at Villa Dagmar.

For further information please contact:

anna.kleberg@artandtheory.org
+46 (0) 704937025
www.artandtheory.org

lovisa.malmstrom@hotelvilladagmar.com
+46 (0) 707136122
www.hotelvilladagmar.com

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