

# *A Retrospective Refuge of the Practice-Based Research Process*

Detroit Kristensen | Detroit Kunsthalle



Photo: John Trygve Tollefsen © 2018

***...cold water, always cold water. Too cold. But it feels so good. That's how it's always been here. Pale toes in freezing water. Bare legs, sock-marks on ankles, in freezing water. Sinking slowly, into the fine-grained sand.***

Kristensen welcomes you to the MFA-thesis exhibition *A Retrospective Refuge of the Practice-Based Research Process*. The exhibition takes its starting point in the ongoing project *Detroit Kunsthalle* - an artist initiated- and run laboratory. The laboratory will be physically anchored at an eight-meter-long and three-meter-wide plot of shoreline in Lurahammeren located along the Norwegian west coast, where Kristensen's grandparents used to live. The plot has been donated to the art project *Detroit Kunsthalle* for the purpose of artistic exploration within the field of art and public space. The concept of *Detroit Kunsthalle* is used as form, format, source and material.

**MAY 31 - JUNE 3, 2018**

Lokomotivhallen - Middelalderparken, Bispegata 16

**Opening:** May 31 at 7 pm

Introduction by Apolonija Šušteršič

Traust Catalog Launch, Introduction by Stefan Schröder

**Talk:** Sunday 3 June at 3pm

Conversation between Bo Krister Wallström and Detroit Kristensen

**Hours:**

Thursday 7 pm - 9 pm

Friday 12 am - 3 pm

Sunday 12 am - 5 pm

Saturday 12 am - 5 pm

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**Detroit Kunsthalle, Oslo**

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[www.kjetilkristensen.com](http://www.kjetilkristensen.com)

[www.detroitkunsthalle.no](http://www.detroitkunsthalle.no)

[www.traust-mfa.com](http://www.traust-mfa.com)

**Kjetil Detroit Kristensen** works with unconventional storytelling through contemporary art. In his work, the object instantiates a micro-space of freedom for the viewer: multiple and multivalent narratives invite the viewer to read, reconsider, and redefine the work for their own purposes. The narrative, the visual, and the concrete are in constant conversation; the viewer moves around and between instantiations of the work and creates a unique subjective experience of the piece. Kristensen works with a variety of media and conceptual strategies led by a focus on questions and problems rather than technique and craft; his work often displays a special emphasis on performative strategies that exploit site- and project-specific constraints and affordances. His works have dealt with the position of the artist; power, institutions, and geopolitics; and the art-making process. He approaches these questions with an aesthetic of corrupted triviality, vulnerable humour, and poetic darkness. His work engages equally with the white cube and the public sphere, building bridges and exposing junctures between the two spaces. Kristensen shows and produces work in independent and institutional contexts in Norway and abroad as an artist, occasional curator/exhibition-maker, conceptual residency facilitator, and producer of projects.

Kristensen holds a diploma in fine art photography from the Oslo Photo Art School and a BA in Contemporary Art from the Tromsø Academy of Contemporary Art (2011). He participated in the inaugural edition of the Independent Study Program (ISP) at Rogaland Kunstsenter (2017). This is Kristensen's thesis exhibition at the MFA program on Art & Public Space (MAPS) at the Oslo National Academy of the Arts (KHiO).

**Apolonija Šušteršič** is an architect and visual artist and the Professor and Head of Program Art & Public Space. Slovenian born and Oslo based Apolonija Šušteršič has a PhD from University of Lund, Malmö Art Academy, Sweden; and runs her own art/architecture studio practice in Oslo and in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Apolonija Šušteršič has participated in a number of internationally published and exhibited projects and exhibitions within and beyond the international contemporary art institutions around the world, among them: Moderna Museet Stockholm; Berlin Biennale 2; Luxembourg City of Culture; Moderna Galerija/Museum of Modern Art, Ljubljana; Marian Goodman, Paris; De Appel, Amsterdam; Generali Foundation, Vienna; Art Museum, University of Memphis, USA; Tirana Biennale 3, Tirana; Muhka, Antwerp; Edinburgh International Festival; Bildmuseet, Umeå; Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst, Leipzig; 12th Architecture Biennale, Venice; Artes Mundi 5, Cardiff; etc.

**Stefan Schröder** is an artist and the coordinator of the MFA degree exhibition at the Art and Craft department. German born and Oslo based visual artist Stefan Schröder is educated from Art Academy in Dresden (GER) and Breda (NL). His recent works include various public commissions in Germany and Norway as well as a series of analog photography (Contributor, 2004 – on going) which deals with personal working experiences at various building sites and art institutions. He is co-founder and co-director of Tenthau Oslo, a non commercial project space in Oslo. Tenthau Oslo's profile is characterised by an open, process-oriented form of participation from an internationally orientated group of artists. The context of contemporary art practice is re-examined through a broader field of activity with exhibitions, workshops, artist's talks and live performances.

**Bo Krister Wallström** is an artist and the coordinator of the MFA degree exhibition at the Academy of Fine Art department. Swedish born and Oslo based artist Bo Krister Wallström is a part of the theatre group Susie Wang (Trine Falch, Mona Solhaug, Martin Langlie, Bo Krister Wallström). He currently heads the artistic and administrative teams responsible for KORO's URO program (art in public outdoor spaces). Wallström is an artist with broad background, spanning from the Academy of Fine Arts in Bergen to Baktruppen (1989-2011) and Verdensteatret (1992-1993). Wallström is both a practising artist, bureaucrat and curator. - A former chair of the boards of UKS (the Norwegian Young Artists' Society) and Oslo Kunsthall, he has also served as the artistic director of both Bergen Kunsthall and Landmark. He has held a curatorial fellowship at Künstlerhaus Bethanien in Berlin, and has produced and curated many projects. His work includes performance, actions, theatre and exhibitions. He has displayed his works at Nationaltheatret Oslo, Samtidsmuseet, Munch Museet, Bergen Kunsthall, Oslo Kunsthall, Kunsternes Hus, Henie Onstad Kunstsenter, Preus Foto Museum and other places abroad with Baktruppen.

**Traust - Catalog Launch** - The *Traust* degree exhibition, presents work by five graduating students from the MFA programme Art and Public Space, and nineteen graduating students from the MFA programme Medium and Material Based Art. A *Retro-spective Refuge of the Practice-Based Research Process* is one of three satellites to the extensive MFA-exhibition *Traust* (2-10 June 2018) and is accompanied by a lavish catalogue. The publication is designed by Ariane Spanier, the Berlin based designer and co-editor of FUKT magazine. The publication includes texts from Ellen K. Aslaksen social anthropologist and Dean of the Art and Craft Department (KHIO) and Stephen Wright, the art writer and co-director of the PhD-level artistic research program "Document & contemporary art" at the European School of Visual Art (ÉESI). The publication presents work by twenty-four graduating students from eleven countries; MFA in Art and Public Space; Rodrigo Ghattas, Nicolas William Hughes, Kjetil Detroit Kristensen, Hege Pålstrud, Ida Uvaas. MFA in Medium and Material Based Art; Lissette Escobar, Sisse Lee, Lena Walton Herfindal, Aleksander Jæger, Allyce Wood, Victoria Duffee, Ida Olesdatter Barland, Olia Gorohova, Chen Zehui, Lucia Cristerna Aragon, Yichun Tang, Atli Graff Pétursson, Marthe Minde, Ida Warholm Bjørken, Helene Therese Duckert, Jessica Brouder, Miriam Colombine Ekeholt, Joanna Knight, Martin Kolsrud.

**MAPS (MFA - Art & Public Space)** - The Oslo National Academy of Fine Arts program Master of Fine Art in Art and Public Space is a two-year artistic research programme that focuses on how art and artistic practice are made manifest in, function in, and relate to various public environments outside art institutions' traditional venues of display. At the core of the programme lies an understanding of contemporary art as a critical spatial practice, providing a platform for new social and political encounters. The programme integrates professional practices, progressive pedagogies, intercultural dialogues, collaborative social engagements, and transdisciplinary explorations within an immersive educational environment. Students are actively encouraged to develop their practice through various methods of research and analytical thinking, as well as practical engagement with sites and situations encountered in our society today.

**Oslo National Academy of the Arts** is Norway's largest college of higher education in the field of visual and performing art with over 550 students and currently offers 24 study programmes in six departments: Art and Craft, Design, The Academy of Fine Art, The Academy of Dance, The Academy of Opera, and The Academy of Theatre.