

THIS IS NOT PERFORMA

THIS IS PERFORMANCE ART

liveactionnewyork.org



**LIVE ACTION
NEW YORK 09**
Scandinavian Performance Art

SCANDINAVIA HOUSE

58, Park Avenue (@ 38 St.)

Friday Nov. 6, 7 pm. FREE.

Saturday Nov. 7, 7 pm. FREE.

Monday Nov. 9, 7 pm. FREE.

GRACE EXH. SPACE

840 Broadway. Brooklyn.

Tuesday Nov. 10, 7 pm. FREE.

Wednesday Nov. 11, 8 pm. FREE.



npa

inf'action



Scandinavia House
THE NORWEGIAN CENTER IN NEW YORK



FRAME
Finnish Fund for Art Exhibitions



LIVE ACTION NEW YORK 09 Scandinavian Performance Art

Scandinavia House

58 Park Avenue (@ 38th St.).
(212) 879-9779 • info@amscan.org

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 7 p.m. FREE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 7 p.m. FREE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 7 p.m. FREE.

LIVE ACTION NEW YORK 09: Scandinavian Performance Art

Live Action New York 09 : Scandinavian Performance Art is a new visual performance art event that showcases 15 major and emerging performance artists at Scandinavia House in Manhattan on November 6, 7, & 9, 2009, and on November 10 and 11 at Grace Exhibition Space in Brooklyn.

The curatorial criteria of Live Action New York 09 is to present different tendencies and generations of artists as to show a broad and qualitative selection of Scandinavian performance art. It will be an intense and exciting event going beyond the mainstream. A one time experience that will be appreciated by an audience keen to discover this highly experimental and avant-garde art form, as well as those who feel a necessity to be in line with what can be described not only as avant-garde, but as an alternative scene of contemporary art.

We are very pleased to present this event alongside as PERFORMA. However, it has to be stated clearly that Live Action New York 09 : Scandinavian Performance Art is an independent event with no direct relation with PERFORMA, except for the fact that it occurs at the same time. Nevertheless, Live Action New York 09 : Scandinavian Performance Art takes advantage of this moment when visual performance art is present all over Manhattan.

Live Action New York 09 is the natural outcome of a recent surge of performance art in the five Scandinavian countries; Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. Live Action New York 09 features some major international performance artists like the legendary Fluxus artist Eric Andersen from Denmark, as well as internationally recognized artists like Roi Vaara, Irma Optimist and Pekka Kainulainen from Finland; the Norwegian Kurt Johannessen, the Icelandic Love Corporation and Elin Wikström from Sweden.

Alongside these key figures in Scandinavian performance art, Live Action New York 09 will present some new emerging and thought-provoking visual performance artists, like Jane Jin Kaisen, Denmark, Agnes Nedregard and Stein Henningsen, Norway, Hans Sternudd and Joakim Stampe, Sweden, and Mimosa Pale from Finland.

Live Action New York 09 is here and now, its a one time event, it is experimental, avant-garde and it is FREE. Don't miss out.

Jonas Stampe, curator Live Action New York 09.

LIVE ACTION NEW YORK 09 Scandinavian Performance Art

Grace Exhibition Space

840 Broadyway. 2nd Floor. Brooklyn.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 7 p.m. FREE.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 8 p.m. FREE.

LIVE ACTION
NEW YORK

Scandinavian Performance Art

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

Eric Andersen, Denmark

Stein Henningsen, Norway

Icelandic Love Corporation

Kurt Johannessen, Norway

Pekka Kainulainen, Finland

Jane Jin Kaisen, Denmark

Agnes Nedregard, Norway

Irma Optimist, Finland

Mimosa Pale, Finland

Joakim Stampe, Sweden

Hans T. Sternudd, Sweden

Roi Vaara, Finland

Elin Wikström, Sweden

www.liveactionnewyork.org

SCANDINAVIA HOUSE

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2009, 7 p.m.

Roi VAARA, Finland

Mimosa PALE, Finland

Kurt JOHANNESSEN, Norway

Elin WIKSTRÖM, Sweden

Pekka KAINULAINEN, Finland

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2009, 7 p.m.

Irma OPTIMIST, Finland

THE ICELANDIC LOVE CORPORATION

Jane Jin KAISEN, Denmark

Eric ANDERSEN, Denmark

Stein HENNINGSEN, Norway

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2009, 7 p.m.

Stein HENNINGSEN, Norway

Hans T. STERNUDD, Sweden

Joakim STAMPE, Sweden

Agnes NEDREGARD, Norway

Pekka KAINULAINEN, Finland

GRACE EXHIBITION SPACE

840 Broadway, 2nd Floor, Brooklyn.

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2009, 7 p.m.

Kurt JOHANNESSEN, Norway

Pekka KAINULAINEN, Finland

Stein HENNINGSEN, Norway

Elin WIKSTRÖM, Sweden

+ special guest

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2009, 8 p.m.

Agnes NEDREGARD, Norway

Mimosa PALE, Finland

Joakim STAMPE, Sweden

+ special guest

Please be advised, the program is subject to change.

www.liveactionnewyork.org



Mimosa Pale. Nuage. 2008.

LIVE ACTION NEW YORK 09: Scandinavian Performance Art - a new experience of action.

The interest for visual performance art is growing on the international scene. In Asia the number festivals and of practicing artists is growing steadily, as well as in Latin America. In Europe there are more than 150 organizers of performance art events, of different size and magnitude. Only in the five Scandinavian countries there exist more than 20 organizers, who recently initiated a federation, *Nordic Performance Art*, to stimulate a broader pro-active cooperation and to promote the field more efficiently. The recent surge of performance art as an expression in contemporary art is manifest, especially in what concerns a younger generation of artists. The reasons of this development may be financial, social, and political or for that matter artistic, but whatever the explanation is, the movement is there. Whether it is the beginning of a shift of paradigm is not the issue, but it is a surge that gets more and more important.

We are very pleased to be able to present *Live Action New York – Scandinavian Performance Art* alongside PERFORMA. However, it has to be clearly stated that *Live Action New York 09: Scandinavian Performance Art* is an independent event with no direct relation with PERFORMA, except for the fact that it occurs in the same time. Nevertheless, *Live Action New York 09* takes advantage of this moment when visual performance art is present all over Manhattan, as to showcase the new Scandinavian scene of performance art.

It is our ambition that *Live Action New York 09* will become a recurrent event and that in 2010 it will become an American-Scandinavian festival of performance art, as to build ties and create a pro-active dialogue between performance artists in the United States and Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden.

For this first edition we are proud to present 15 major and emerging Scandinavian performance artists during six days in New York City. One of the curatorial criteria is to feature a mix of younger and emerging artists with their natural energy, ambition and inventiveness alongside the experience and quality of some of the most important artist on the international scene. We are convinced that this inter-generational blend of different tendencies in contemporary Scandinavian performance art will make *Live Action New York 09* an artistically high-profile, experimental and thought-provoking event beyond the mainstream.

We are pleased to be able to present **Eric Andersen**, the Danish Fluxus pioneer, one of the early European performance artists who already belong to art history, and whose work with intelligence still tells us who we could be. But also the fabulous and inventive **Roi Vaara** from Finland, who will take part with a work full of humor, profound

signification and subtlety. Vaara is probably one of the most important performance artists today on the international scene, and a member of the legendary international collective *Black Market International*.

The prominent Finnish artist **Irma Optimist** will show us how mathematics and feminism are related in her outstanding style – a style that can make the most serious person find a sense of humor.

As a modern shaman from the heartland of Finland, **Pekka Kainulainen**, one of the pioneers in Finnish performance art, will take us to a world that we have not yet seen, where nature, man and animal, become one, humanly, in pain and in laughter.

One of the major Swedish performance artists, **Elin Wikström**, deals with issues in contemporary society, like censorship and how we use our rights as citizens. The question she focuses on is our own actions as citizens.

And then there is the Norwegian **Kurt Johannessen**, another major contemporary performance artist whose work is at once detailed, conceptual, and visually elaborate. With humor, a specific macro perspective and duration he creates an immediate and unique energy that gives us a large view of things while establishing an intimacy with the audience, and a tension, that always work.

We are also happy to present **the Icelandic Love Corporation** whose work has had several followers in Scandinavia since the mid 90s. At *Live Action New York* we will showcase the original. Humor, love, irony, intelligence and feminism are terms that could be used in relation to their work. But of course words can't describe the experience.

Alongside these internationally renowned artists, we will give some emerging artists the opportunity to present their work as well, like the Norwegian **Stein Henningsen**, who usually presents thought-provoking works on issues like George W. Bush's War on Terrorism, the financial crisis and climate change.

Mimosa Pale from Finland is a young artist who deals with questions concerning gender and sexuality from a most original perspective.

Jane Jin Kaisen is a young Danish artist whose work deals with memory, subjectivity, and political agency. Her work explores how history and memory is negotiated through the relationship between knowledge, desire, and power and between subjectivity, representation, and privilege.

The Swedish artist **Joakim Stampe** explores contemporary history with a focus on social and political issues that confront the audience with their prejudices and perceptions of the surrounding world.

Agnes Nedregard from Norway is concerned about involving the audience, questioning the relationship between

artist and viewer, with a will to blur the limits between the categories, not through intimidation, but blending the process of our visual experience through tenderness.

Finally, **Hans T. Sternudd** from Sweden, whose video-based and ritual-inspired performances might be messy like life, and may shock some philistines. But then if you come to see performance art you certainly don't belong to that category of art amateurs.

The curatorial criteria of this first edition of *Live Action New York 09: Scandinavian Performance Art*, is one of quality and of diversity. However, there is one common denominator: that of taking risks. Risk is, alongside time, space and presence, maybe the most important quality in contemporary performance art. It is not a spectacle; it is not a product to be bought and sold; it is not entertainment; it is human action, which in the particular case of performance art always includes, risk taking...

Finally, I would like to thank **Kyle Reinhart** at *Scandinavia House* for his great interest and support for the realization of *Live Action New York 09: Scandinavian Performance Art*. And also the consulate generals of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden for their help in different ways to make the event possible. I would also like to thank **Jill McDermid** at *Grace Exhibition Space* for her spontaneous and direct support in hosting the event. I also want to thank our different sponsors; without their support the event would not take place: Nordic Culture Fund, Nordic Culture Point, FRAME - Finnish Fund For Art Exchange, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway.

Jonas Stampe, curator Live Action New York 09 : Scandinavian Performance Art



Scandinavia House
THE PUBLIC CENTER OF PARIS



Stein Henningsen. *Melt Down 1*. Infr'Action Paris. 2009