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MOMENTUM 12 BIENNIAL

The miracle of Nordic art is on a remote island, full of foam statues, kitchen and karaoke

- Energy shakes the Norwegian island of Jeløya with an exhibition organized by Galleri F15 and the Tenthaus collective, where the rules of art are rewritten with a collaborative,



audacious, musical and very groundbreaking model



A child present at the Momentum 12 Biennale has fun with the foam sculpture by German artist Stephanie Lüning from Dresden at the beginning of June (Ingeborg Oien Thorstrand © 2023 Galleri F)

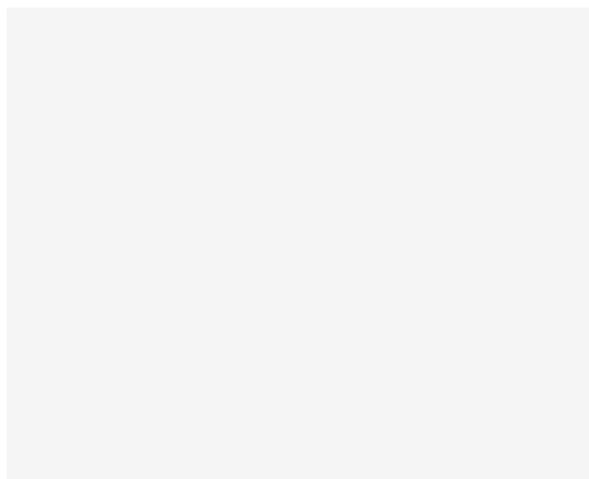


PHILIP VIVANCO
MOSS (JELØYA). NORWAY

07/03/2023 06:30 | Updated 07/03/2023 07:30

An artistic hieroglyph. A musical riddle in a remote and paradisiacal place. Surprises and answers in the penultimate frontier of art. The flapping of a cheeky low-flying bird is not part of the exhibition program of this circus with many tracks, but the smell of algae in a closed room with sculptures and messages is.

What is happening here (and will happen **until October 10**), is not an earthquake, nor an ice age in July, nor a coincidence, it is a phenomenon that marks an alternative course for art that has to be brave and ask questions. It already happened in January with the **opening of EMΣT and its exhibition on love** .



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rethink art

What is happening here is a phenomenon that marks an alternative direction to art that has to be brave and question everything.

What is happening here (and will happen until October) is not an earthquake, nor an ice age in July, it is a phenomenon that marks an alternative course for art. In a land of extremes and merciless winds. The fallen trees in the forest have become the columns of a Greek temple topped by the rocks of a nearby wall, an agora. Museum rules are shattered in this corner of the world. Hallelujah.





Ironic messages "Rolling stone" on a wall next to the gallery F by Germain Ngoma, an artist specialized in recovering materials (Galleri F15)



The female collective Wet, which travels throughout Europe on freight trips, presents a work full of sculptures in an environment that smells of dried seaweed and sea (Galleri F15)

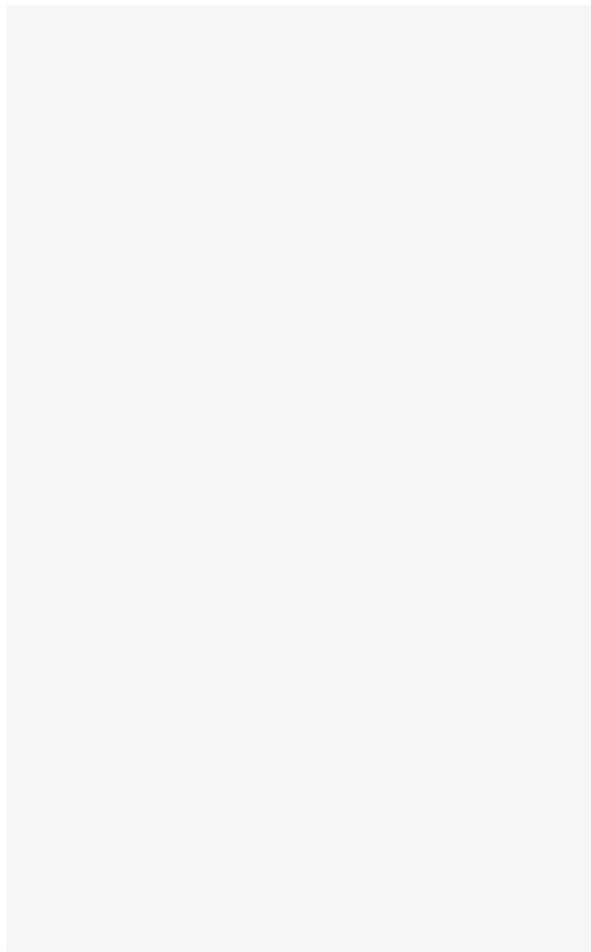
In one of the rooms of the old 19th century architecture gallery, an ingenious video by the Indonesian collective Gudskul (the penultimate cry of world art) shows a blue ball that stops at nothing, knocks over books, overcomes obstacles, lives its adventure, a Free life. Right next to it is a chess board for four players in which to collaborate is to win and to fight is to lose.

Outside, children play with a mound of colored foam that flows from the crack of a red-painted barn. It is a monumental sculpture, thought to the millimeter. there are those who take off their shirts and ink them with the different colors of the foam. In the exhibition hall two operators, hammer in hand, have been petrified. Has Harry Potter passed through here and has he taken a petrificus totalis out of his wand or is there a lack of security measures?



Momentum 12 is held in a cluster of buildings near Moss, Norway (Eivind Lauritzen)

But the most important question that Moss asks himself is: where is art going? What labyrinths does it take to remain authentic, to break the jar of essences and then connect with the public, putting the pieces together? The energy electrocutes the visitor at every step on placid Jeløya, a small island two hours south of Oslo, where the mythical Galleri F15 stands proud.

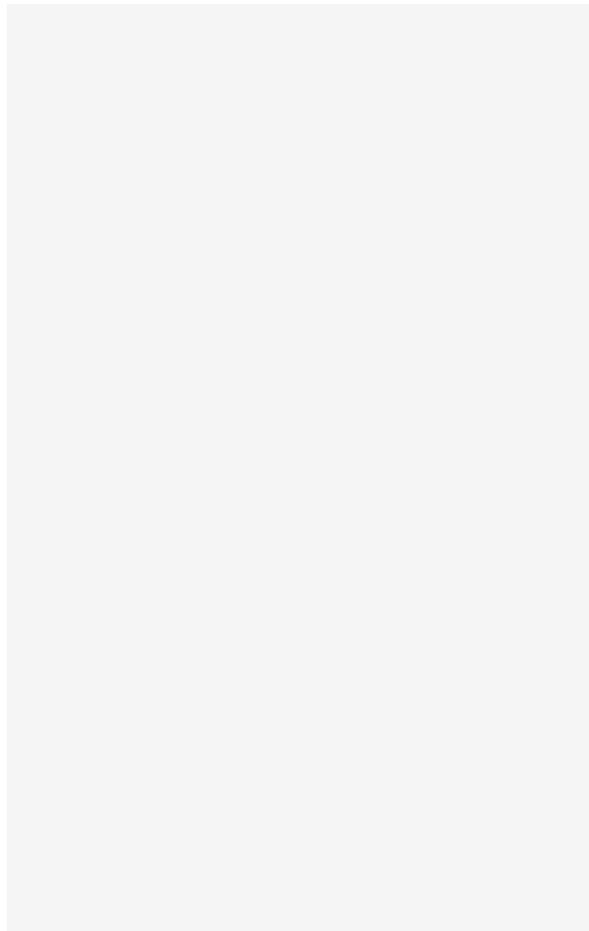


This is an art center with a lot of tradition and history but local, peripheral, on the outskirts of Moss, a provincial town. In Norway, art is making its way based on an overflowing imagination with names that are not in the *emerging* books but that are already raising questions.



It is the first time in 25 years and 12 editions that the Momentum Biennial of Contemporary Art - “the Nordic artistic miracle” according to the uber-curator Hans Ulrich Obrist-, breaks the law. Those chosen to program the works are Tenthaus, an international collective of artists based in Oslo (not the usual curators, curators and critics) who choose the participating artists.

Radio, music, poetry, concerts, cooking, contact with nature, bibliographical experiments and a daily nightly karaoke. All artistic festivals should include some of these ingredients. Karaoke, where whoever wants to participate, is run by the members of Gudskul, the Indonesian artistic collective that already **caused a sensation** at the last Documenta in Kassel. Watch out for Gudskul. Cinnamon stick





One of the outdoor installations by the Indonesian collective Gudskul that is causing a sensation in the art world (brian smeets)



The Gudskul collective with its collective kitchen and daily karaoke give a festive touch to the Momentum 12 Biennale curated by 

Whoever goes to this gallery-farm surrounded by fields of beaches with icy water and trotting horses, has every right in the world to wonder what all this is about, if there is an alternative to canonical art, an alternative that questions and rethinks ideas to the big fairs that have subscribed to franchises around the world.

Yes, it is legitimate to wonder: “Is this art? A karaoke where one can scream with *I will survive* by Gloria Gaynor? Come on, come on... Collective kitchen? Some beach flip-flops at the entrance of a room? Are they kidding us? The answers are not emphatic, nor definitive, nor imperishable. But the works cause an impact, talking to the artists gives them an aesthetic and philosophical sense.



Jaanus Samma is an Estonian artist, curated by Itzel Esquivel, who reinterprets the traditional costumes of the Sami population (brian smeets)



The Mexican printer Enrique Solís has chosen the Danish Thomas Iversen for his work in the search for natural and vegetable pigments (Galleri F15)

And you can talk to all of them, under the trees, in the inner galleries, in an old barn sipping a glass of wine or crossing the path from exhibition space to exhibition space in this small complex between hayfields and next to a beach. in which only the heroes of Marvel, DC Comics and very brave humans bathe.

Momentum is not a typical shop window (create-sell-buy), but rather a workshop of originality and vision, which looks to the future of the planet and does not pay lip service. Posturing has no place, glamor is understood in another way, it is born from the exchange of brilliant ideas.

An alternative proposal

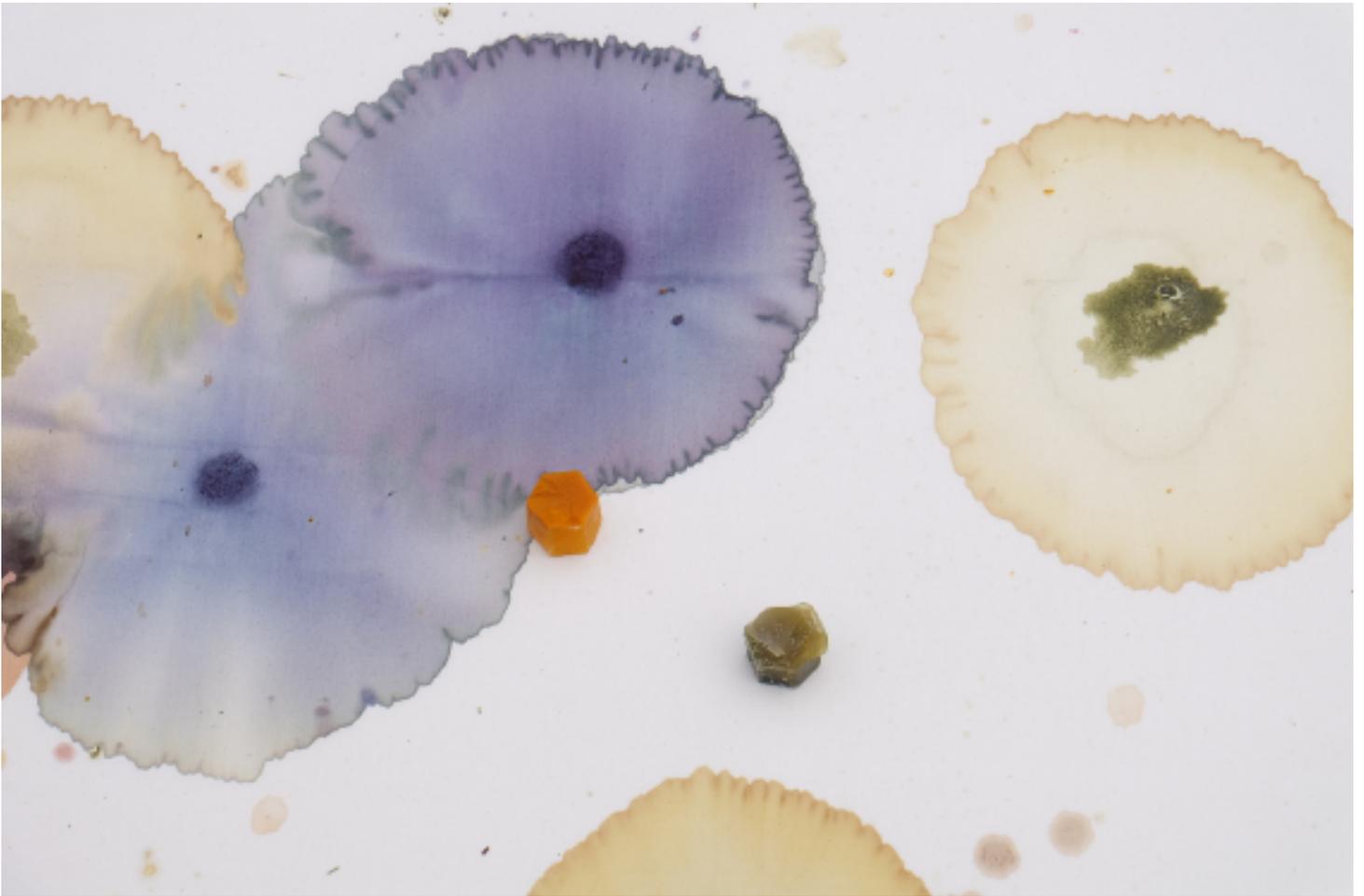
Momentum is an experience that encourages gathering, discussing sensations face to face, exploring and adding accents from all over the planet.

It is an experience that encourages gathering, discussing sensations face to face, exploring (the catchy slogan in English is *Together as to gather*) and adding all the accents on the planet. There are hardly any artists from the country, both the members of Tenthaus and the chosen artists partly live in Norway, but their origins spread across five continents.

Stephanie Lüning has hands that look like a disjointed rainbow, all the colors she uses for her works, some ephemeral, others permanent. Works that have gone around the world in the form of soap foam sculptures occupy squares and streets, they rise like clouds in the wind and where children dive.



'Isla de Espuma', by Stephanie Lüning, ephemeral action by the German artist for Momentum 12 (Galleri F15)



A collective painting directed by Lüning, the public throws colored cubes (made of vegetable essences) that gradually stain the canvas (Philip Vivanco)

"There is nothing left of the works, only the videos and I see no reason to sell them, the only thing left of each action is each one of the spotted monkeys that I use." She explains it next to his other work that is taking shape as the days go by. A canvas on a platform that gradually becomes more pigmented as cubes of different shades dissolve and leave a circle.

The ices are made of natural essences: herbs, tree bark, forest fruits. Whoever dares to suck them discovers that some taste good and others a thousand demons. Children throw cubes, like someone throwing dice. Momentum is a tower of babel that stands and does not collapse. La lingua franca, is a dialogue between nature and experimentation in an old building with the air of Fanny and Alexander de Bergman with wallpaper embossed in gold. Here a chapter of the future of art has begun to be written.



The collective of international artists Tenthaus, most of them based in Norway, have been commissioned to curate the Momentum 12 biennial (Stephan Schröder)

— **Tenthaus, the phenomenon** **The luxury of nature, the prize of freedom**

To surprise. The essence of the Momentum 12 biennial, and of the Tenthaus collective (photo above), is that art is priceless, it resides in freedom, in the power of nature, in going off on a tangent, in recovering surprise and courting **the love and humor**. It achieves this in part thanks to the daring work of authors such as the Estonian Jaanus Samma, who reinterprets Sami crafts in a line of accessories, or the WET collective, a female group of Czech artists who act as a response to the macho culture of graffiti artists in his country. Italian artist Alessandro Marchi also connects with communities in the north of the country with outdoor totem poles. In a very small space of land, artists from all over the globe have gathered; in 95% of cases they live in Norway but come from the five continents. Argentina, Iran, Mexico, Taiwan, Brazil...

— **scandinavian chronicles** **Stockholm-Helsinki-Oslo**



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Sofi Oksanen travels to the torn soul of Ukraine

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Camilla Läckberg, queen of the Nordic novel: "Blood is fascinating"

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Renia Spiegel's diary

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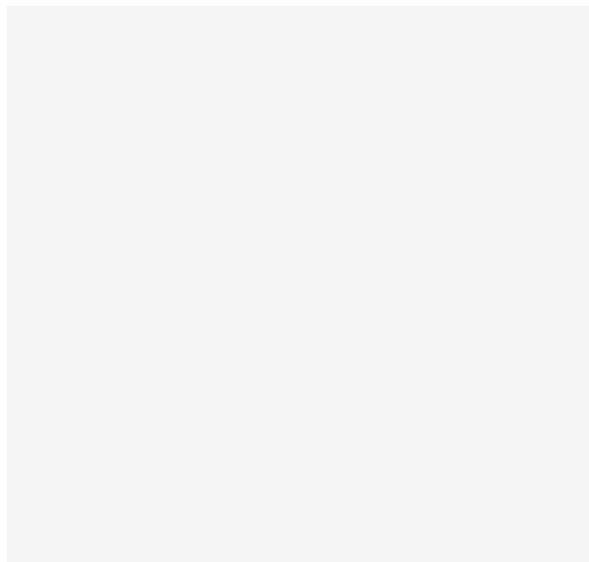
NATO invades the peace of the Finnish sauna

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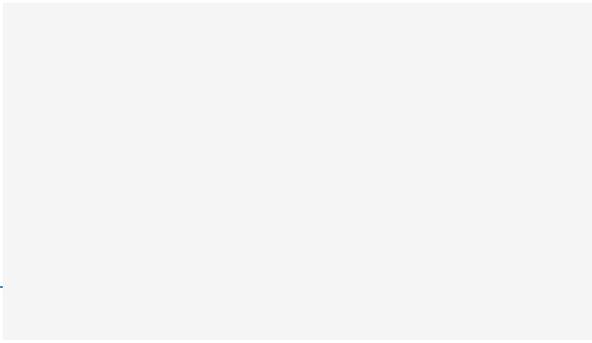


Former soccer player, rocker and climber: this is Jo Nesbø, the writer of 55 million books sold

FELIP VIVANCO / MANÉ ESPINOSA (PHOTOS)



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