

IVEEIA

IHRMAN

Frutti

di

Mare

30.9 2023 – 14.1 2024 MALMÖ KONSTHALL

Ingela Ihrman's exhibition *Frutti di Mare* embraces the story of how the first life on earth once emerged from the depths of the ocean. With humour and visual ingenuity, the title transforms the open architecture and dough-coloured wooden floor of the konsthall into a giant pizza, topped with around twenty works from the last 10 years of Ihrman's life as an artist in Malmö. The exhibition is alive and transforms through different happenings and performances. The map you hold in your hands guides you through the works in the space and lists the dates and times of the exhibition programme. In the konsthall's audio guide you can hear Ihrman talk about her works.

With a disarming sense of playfulness, Ingela Ihrman's artistic practice deals with the conditions of human existence. Social relations, scientific facts and personal experiences function as starting points for artistic exploration. The works refer to modern society and humankind's complicated relationship with itself and other living beings. Ihrman ruminates over the imbalance that has been in play since humanity began to separate itself from its surroundings and place itself above all other life. She delves into pleasure and pain, loneliness and autonomy, being – as the artist herself puts it – “human, social, in love or just alive”. In the exhibition, complex questions surrounding belonging, origin and reproduction culminate.

Frutti di Mare comprises of sculpture, video, installation, text and performance. On several occasions, the artist will dress up in sculptural costumes, pretending to be a passionflower, giant otter, frog, spruce cone, giant water lily or an oilbird with its nestling. The figures behave in their characteristic and idiosyncratic ways – they emit scents, excrete fluids, give birth, feed and reproduce. A connection to feminist performance can be found in these works – the body is concealed, and an objectifying gaze is redirected, but equally relevant is the human search for meaning and connection through rituals and ceremonies. The collective nature of the situation and experience is emphasized when visitors to the konsthall are invited to drink the sweet juices of the *Green Juice Bar* and *Passionflower*, or when the sickening death-smell of the flowering titan arum, impossible to escape, spreads through the room.

During a week in November, six actors from Ögonblicksteatern in Umeå will perform *Vilka är ni?* (Who are you?) for visitors of the konsthall. Ingela Ihrman has written the theatre play and created the costumes and scenography in close collaboration with director and playwright Maja Salomonsson. Together with the audience – the pike, the wood mouse, the blade of grass, the starflower, the blow fly and the pinecone all reflect upon what it means to be someone or something, and ask – who actually plays a role?

The wooden pier that crosses through the gallery space leads out to *The Inner Ocean* – a project in many parts that establishes links between the intertidal zone of the Andaman Islands and the Seved neighbourhood of Malmö. The group of works are intersected by geology, fertility research, posthumanism and bathtub hours in the semi-tiled bathroom of the artist's apartment. The title refers to the fluid that surrounds mature egg cells in the egg sacs of all terrestrial organisms. The fluid has the same salinity as the primeval ocean, where life once emerged billions of years ago. In this way, says Ihrman who loves to swim, we still carry the sea inside our bodies.

Frutti di Mare literally means fruits of the sea. In Italian, it refers to shellfish – marine invertebrates with exoskeletons. In a similar way, Ihrman's cumbersome handmade costumes act as protective armour around a vulnerable interior – an extra layer of skin and flesh that encapsulates and hides the contours of the body, allowing the artist to be visible and invisible at the same time. The execution is precise and the materials are simple; found or recycled. The costumes can be seen in different stages – dressed or resting, budding, lying on the floor or hanging on a hook. By leaving traces and energies of what has or has not yet happened, Ihrman reminds us of the cyclical nature of life and that the art space is not a freezer box where time stands still.

THEATRE / YOGA / TALK

Sunday 15.10,
10.15
Performance:
Grodan och solen går
ner i havet
Free tickets that can
be booked in advance.

Sunday 15.10,
14.00
Talk in Swedish:
Ingela Ihrman &
Mats Stjernstedt

Wednesday 15.11,
18.00 with subse-
quent talk
Theatre performance:
Vilka är ni?
Free tickets that can
be booked in advance.

Friday 17.11,
18.00
Saturday 18.11,
10.00 and 18.00

PERFORMANCES

Saturday 30.9,
11.00
Sunday 1.10,
13.30
Saturday 14.10,
13.30
Wandering Spruce

Saturday 14.10,
15.00
Giant Otter
Giving Birth

Sunday 15.10,
13.30
One Fig
Saturday 4.11,
13.30
Amorphallus
titanium

Sunday 5.11,
13.30
The Giant Water Lily
Victoria Amazonica

Sunday 5.11,
15.00
Gymnastics
Friday 12.1,
18.00
Oilbird with Nestling

GREEN JUICE BAR

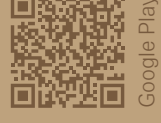
Opening hours:
Saturdays between 1pm and 4pm

AUDIOGUIDE

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MALMÖ KONSTHALL

Opening hours
Tue, Thur, Sat & Sun: 11-17
Wed: 11-19
Closed: Mon & 24.12,
25.12, 31.12, 11
info.konsthall@malmose

1.1 The Inner Ocean: The Passionflower
2017

The *Passionflower* is a sculpture and a performance that – with the help of the audience – stages the flowering and pollination of a passionflower plant. Costume made of textile, flour, white glue, foam rubber, plastic, paper, hula hoop, wood, tape, lacquer, balloon, acrylic paint, straws and passion-fruit soda.

Courtesy Moderna Museet, Stockholm. Purchase 2019.

Performance:
The Passionflower
Saturday 30.9, 11.00

1.2 The Inner Ocean: Seaweedsbladet #1
2017. New edition 2023 for *Frutti di Mare*, 1500 ex

Local newspaper that in 2017 was distributed to 3000 households in the residential area of Seved

1.5 The Inner Ocean: The Flower Coral and the Anus Anemone
2017. HD-video, 8 min

2 Vilka är ni?
2018

3 The Russian Cave Goat
2011. HD-video, 1 min

4 One Fig
2020

5.1 Forkweed

Cotton, flour glue, wood glue, polyethylene plastic, textile paint, boat varnish, carbon fibre rod.

5.2 Oarweed

Foam rubber, acrylic paint, plastic wire.

5.3 Gutweed

Silk, textile dye, cotton, flour glue, wood glue, nylon thread, foam rubber.

5.4 Red Rags & Sea Lettuce

Cotton, polyester, textile paint, sealant.

6 Oilbird with Nesting
2021. HD-video, 6 min

Video and performance with a bird costume and nesting made from reeds, metal wire netting, paper clay, linseed oil paint, textiles, wool, wadding, plastic, wood, foam rubber and a dog toy.

7 The Toad
2013. HD-video, 5 min

Video recorded at Årsta school's gymnastics hall with a toad costume made of textile, paper, flour glue, lacquer, plastic, polystyrene balls, Velcro and work gloves. With thanks to Sam Hultin and Johan Eriksson.

8 Giant Otter Giving Birth
2012

Performance with otter costume and pups made of polyester fur, bicycle helmet, glass marbles, ping-pong balls, nylon thread, painter's tape, polystyrene balls, gelatine, wood, corn starch, beet-root and water.

9 Wandering Spruce
2015. HD-video, 4 min

Documentation of a performance on the island of Lauttasaari in Helsinki, with a fir cone costume made of compost bags, textile, acrylic paint, flour, wood glue and zippers.

10 The Giant Water Lily Victoria Amazonica
2012

Sculpture and performance with giant water lily costume made of plastic foam, ink, acrylic paint, cotton, wood glue, flour glue, golf pegs, Velcro and gelatine. *The Giant Water Lily* will arrive at *Frutti di Mare* on the 5th October.

11 The Giant Hogweed
2015

Sculpture made of cardboard, reeds, cotton sheets, flour glue, wood glue, polyethylene plastic, floor foam, linseed oil paint, nylon string and nylon straps.

12 The Giant Hogweed: Green Fingers
2015

An erotic text in Swedish read by the artist.

13 First Came the Landscape
2021/2023

Sculpture made of dead alder trees from the Bulltofta nature area which, after the end of the exhibition *Frutti di Mare*, will be placed in Guldängens construction and cultivation playground at Lönngården in Malmö.

1.3 The Inner Ocean: Skåne's Inner Ocean
2023

Bengt Jönsson's sea urchin fossil collection, found between 1973 and 1981 on his family farm in Mossby on the south coast of Skåne. The collection includes about 1600 sea urchins.

With thanks to Bengt Jönsson.

1.4 The Inner Ocean: Malmgården's Inner Ocean
2023

Bathroom tiles from the Malmgården house in Värnhem, Malmö, built in 1934–35 by Eric Sigfrid Persson.

With thanks to Rebecka Peterson and Kristoffer Luthman.

1.6 The Inner Ocean: The Giant Clam
2016

Giant clam mantle made of plastic, silk and acrylic paint that the artist sometimes wears while taking a bath.

Performance:
The Giant Clam with a reading from *Seaweedsbladet #1*
Sunday 1.10 kl. 13.30

Performances with free tickets that can be booked in advance:
Wednesday 15.11, 18.00
Friday 17.11, 18.00
Saturday 18.11, 10.00 and 18.00

Performance:
One Fig
Sunday 15.10, 13.30

Performance:
Oilbird with Nesting
Friday 12.1, 18:00

Performance:
Gymnastics
Sunday 5.11, 15:00

Performance:
Giant Otter Giving Birth
Saturday 14.10, 15:00

Performance:
Wandering Spruce
Saturday 14.10, 13.30

Performance:
The Giant Water Lily Victoria Amazonica
Sunday 5.10, 15:00



17.1 Green Juice Bar
2015

Giant knotweed, plywood, orange juice concentrate, tap water, blue food colouring, cotton, water colour, textiles, helmets, markers, steel wire, pipe cleaners, paper, wheat flour glue, plastic, spray paint, linseed oil paint and gelatine.

In the *Green Juice Bar*, green juice is served in different shades, mixed by staff wearing Goethe's colour wheel, a yellow water lily hat and a poppy hat. In the bar you can find Elsa Beskow's picture book *Solägget (The Sun Egg)* from 1932.

The bar is open on Saturdays between 1pm and 4pm.



17.2 Bhekasana
2014. HD-video, 14 min

17.3 Tropikerna 1-4
2012

Self-published booklet.

17.4 Grodan och solen går ner i havet
2017

Fairy tale yoga performance in Swedish with Evelina Hartwig and Ingela Ihrman as the frog. Children over the age of four and adults are welcome to participate.

Fairy tale yoga performance with free tickets that can be booked in advance:
Sunday 15.10, 10.15–11.00



16 The Stegocephalia
from Bjuv
2013

Costume made of rubber foam, lacquer, plexiglass, plastic, wood glue and starch paste. On loan from Bjuv municipality.

16.2 Donation letter to Bjuv
municipality.

16.3 Fossil Gerrothorax rhaeticus, on loan from the Department of Paleobiology at the Swedish Museum of Natural History.

16.4 The booklet När de skånska stenkolen vora levande (...) / When the Scanian hard coal was alive (...), Tage Nilsson, Höganäs, 1946.

16.5 Textile print of Rekonstruktion av vegetation i Skåne för 200 miljoner år sedan (Reconstruction of the vegetation in Skåne 200 million years ago), watercolour on paper by Sven Ekblom, 1938–40.

With thanks to Art Lab Gnesta.



15 Amorphophallus titanum
2013/2023

Costume made from cotton, foam rubber, bone glue, paper, starch paste, caput mortuum-ink, linseed oil paint, acrylic paint and steel rods.

Amorphophallus titanum means 'shapeless giant phallus' and is the scientific name of the titan arum, a plant that grows wild in the rainforests of Sumatra. When it blooms, it emits a scent of dead animals, rotten fish and burnt sugar to attract scavenging pollinators.

With thanks to Art Lab Gnesta.

Performance:
Amorphophallus titanum
Saturday 4.11, 13.30

The Giant Knotweed
2015. HD-video, 6 min; panpipes

Video documentation of a panpipe ensemble playing on the inner ring road in Malmö with panpipes made from giant knotweed stems, an invasive species that grows on the site.

Camera and editing: Mikael Lindahl.

With thanks to Andrea Furberg, Veronika Hoffman, Julia Emmelin, Angelica Falkeling, Elfrida Klacka, Anton Klacka, baby Klacka, Tobey Lennox, Kah Bee Chow and Johan Österholm.

12 Lychee and Rambutan
2023

Sculptures made of paper, metal wire netting, cable ties, flour glue, wood glue, cotton sheets, egg boxes, spray paint, lacquer.

13 First Came the Landscape
2021/2023

Sculpture made of dead alder trees from the Bulltofta nature area which, after the end of the exhibition *Frutti di Mare*, will be placed in Guldängens construction and cultivation playground at Lönngården in Malmö.

11.1 The Giant Hogweed
2015

Sculpture made of cardboard, reeds, cotton sheets, flour glue, wood glue, polyethylene plastic, floor foam, linseed oil paint, nylon string and nylon straps.

In Skåne and many other places, the giant hogweed is classified as invasive because it is considered a threat to both economic and ecological values. Its phototoxic sap can cause severe skin burns.

11.2 The Giant Hogweed: Green Fingers
2015

An erotic text in Swedish read by the artist.

