

KUNO MEETINGS 23 – 25 OCTOBER 2009

Academy of Fine Arts, Umeå University

TEACHERS SEMINAR: TWO OR THREE THINGS WE KNOW ABOUT TEACHING ART

Debates on pedagogy and teaching methods are rare in art schools today; faculty members rarely find the time or the opportunity to talk about the daily practice and experience of teaching. Could it be that we are taking two fixed positions in art school teaching – the artistic and the academic – so much for granted that we don't have to question their borders and that we can't imagine other ways of training artists? Could it be that the teaching experience is so intimate, so individual, so little prone to be generalised that we simply can't share the knowledge we gain from it with peers and colleagues?

This year's seminar will (re-)open the discussion of the pedagogic strategies underpinning artistic training in our art schools today and aims at sharing ideas on new approaches to teaching art that are already being practiced or merely imagined but never tried. Whether we teach art students academically, as in survey courses or in art theory classes, or we do tutorials based on experience from artistic practice, we have a sense of the specificity of art school teaching. But do art school pedagogies really differ substantially from those within university teaching, and if so, what constitutes difference?

In this seminar a particular focus will be given to the question of teaching theory and history in an art school. A question that bears on an even vaster one: What do artists (need to) know and by which pedagogic methods do we convey and produce such knowledge?

KUNO is happy to present **Ann-Mari Edström**, who defended her doctoral dissertation, "Learning in Visual Art Practice", at Lund University in September 2008. Her empirical research was carried out at Malmö Art Academy, read more here: <http://www.soch.lu.se/o.o.i.s?id=15679&postid=1216457>

We also proudly present **Jan Bäcklund**, visual artist and theoretician, who will address some of the challenges related to teaching history and theory. Bäcklund reflections: <http://barnabooth.portheim.org/>

First and not least **Roland Spolander** with colleagues will present the visions and plans for Umeå's new artistic campus:

<http://www.umu.se/english/about-umu/news-events/news/-newsdetailpage/umea-arts-campus-to-begin-construction---a-unique-and-creative-environment-.cid32667>



Venue:

The seminar will take place at the
Academy of Fine Arts
Address: Östra Strandgatan 32

TWO OR THREE THINGS WE KNOW ABOUT TEACHING ART: Programme

Friday 23 October

- 17.15 - 17.30: Welcome and introduction to the teachers seminar
by KUNO Chair Gertrud Sandqvist
- 17.30 - 17.45: **Umeå Arts Campus**
presentation by Roland Spolander,
Dean at the Academy of Fine Arts
- 17.45 - 18.15: *Umeå University Museum of Contemporary Art and Visual
Culture*, presentation by Director Jan Erik Lundström
- 18.15 - 18.45: *Umeå School of Architecture*
presentation by Director Peter Kjaer
- 18.45 - 19.15: *Umeå Institute of Design*
presentation by Director Tapio Alkorkkko
- 20.00: Discussion and buffet at the academy

Saturday 24 October

- 10.00 - 11.00: **To Rest Assured - an Aspect of Learning in Visual Art Practice**
by Ann-Mari Edström, ph.d.,
Director of Karlskrona Culture School
- 11.00 - 12.00: **History and Theory for Artists**
by Jan Bäcklund, visual artist and theoretician, ph.d.
Associate Professor at the Laboratory for theory and Cultural
History, The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts.
- 12.00 - 13.00: Lunch
- 13.00 - 14.00: Group discussions
- 14.00 - 15.00: Panel discussion
- 15.00 - 15.15: Short coffee break
- 15.15 - 16.45: **Socially Engaged Collective Activities and Self-Organisation
Paldiski - a Town as a Living Organism**
KUNO intensive courses in 08-09 presented by Irmeli Kokko,
senior lecturer at the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts and
Li Yang, MA student at Estonian Academy of Arts
- 20.00: Dinner

Sunday 25 October

- 11.00 - 13.00: Excursion to Umedalen Sculpture Park,
Galleri Andersson Sandström; Stefan Andersson