



GRY WORRE HALLBERG

PERFORMANCE ARTIST IN SISTERS ACADEMY AND EXTERNAL LECTURER AT PERFORMANCE DESIGN, DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION, BUSINESS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES AT ROSKILDE UNIVERSITY. CURRENTLY WORK ON THE PROJECT *THE SENSUOUS SOCIETY: BEYOND ECONOMIC RATIONALITY*.



ALL TOMORROWS DREAMS

Sensuous society is a framework to explore the radical idea of the aesthetic dimension, the sensuous and the poetic as the highest values of society. What kind of society would that create?

TEKST: GRY WORRE HALLBERG A

The End is a New Beginning: In 2008 the financial world cracked, leaving a gap for the new - for the new paradigm to emerge. We regard the crack as a major opportunity.

The New Paradigm: We wish to take this opportunity and support the transition into the new, by living and breeding in the cracks. From here we move.

The Sensuous Society: We will draw from the aesthetic dimension as a source of inspiration to inform the dawning world.

We will call it: The Sensuous Society. Why?

The Sensuous Society. As critical theory has pointed at the economic system has largely governed and dominated Western society since the industrialization, and rational thought has been roaming the tops of unnaturally constructed hierarchies of perception since the Enlightenment. Rational thought has been our dominating validating principle and economic premises such as efficiency, duty, and discipline have largely dominated everyday life in Western society. They have generally defined our institutions and >

SENSUOUS (SOCIETY)

Sensuous operate in the intersection of performance art, research, activism and future studies, continuously executed in 1:1 co-created experiments such as *Sisters Academy*, *Dome of Visions* and *In100Y*.

The work is rooted in the sense of a Sensuous Society - a vision that goes beyond economic rationality by suggesting a sensuous mode of being in the world as the outset of a new paradigm.

For many years Sensuous have aimed at enriching environments with an aesthetic dimension through the use of immersive, interventionist and interactive performance art, unfolding in the intersection(s).

SISTERS HOPE

Sisters Hope is a Danish-based performance group and movement with an associated troop of international performers from various backgrounds.

Founded in 2007 by Gry Worre Hallberg and Anna Lawaetz.

The focus of the group is to open more sensuous and poetic modes of knowledge creation, teaching and learning to nurture a new mode of educational thinking and practice .

Currently work on the large-scale Nordic project **Sisters Academy**

www.sistershope.dk
www.sistersacademy.dk



GIVING BIRTH: *The Sister cleansing singular. Grand shifting. Climbing mountains. Giving birth. Sisters Academy #3 is now on in Sweden.* (For more info <http://sistersacademy.dk/about/inkonst/>)



offered themselves as primary modes of being and being together.

However, the governance is not sustainable as the current ecological and economic crisis points at and it has led to a fundamental de-enchantment of the life-world of modern (wo)men.

Aesthetic Interventions: But its time has come. In opposition to the economic milestone stands the artistic or rather aesthetic. This mode is based on premises such as: phantasy, desire and not at least the sensuous experience of and engagement in the world. Artistic output is the quintessence of an ultimate aesthetic mode of being the world.

The notion of a sensuous society reshapes the role of art and artistic practice. The exclusive autonomous art system is also a result of the dominance of the economic dimension. Within this autonomous zone the art genius is a celebrated figure, which is conceived as someone with a very special (transcending) intelligence. In a Sensuous Society however, we believe that this will be a more common intelligence - simply, because we all have this creative potential within us, and if our outset and mode of being in the world is the sensuous, this potential will be released.

The aesthetic mode of being and being together in the world is something we as humans always have and always will dive into.

However, the current exclusiveness of this mode has created a collective longing in the Western world. Like an arm cut of we move forward in the ever-turning efficient wheels of society without noticing the blood floating from our armpits.

- THE CHANGING OF SPACE IS CRUCIAL. WE IMMERSE IN SPACES THAT ALLOW US TO NAVIGATE DIFFERENTLY IN THE WORLD.

We need to democratize the aesthetic mode of being to overcome the longing and suffering that its general absence outside the art system creates.

The aesthetic dimension will serve as a key source of inspiration in the Sensuous Society. Step by step those engaged in the movement toward the Sensuous Society will make interventions into the societal institutions. They will move from the crack and engage. Ultimately these actions will however not be encapsulated spaces allowing

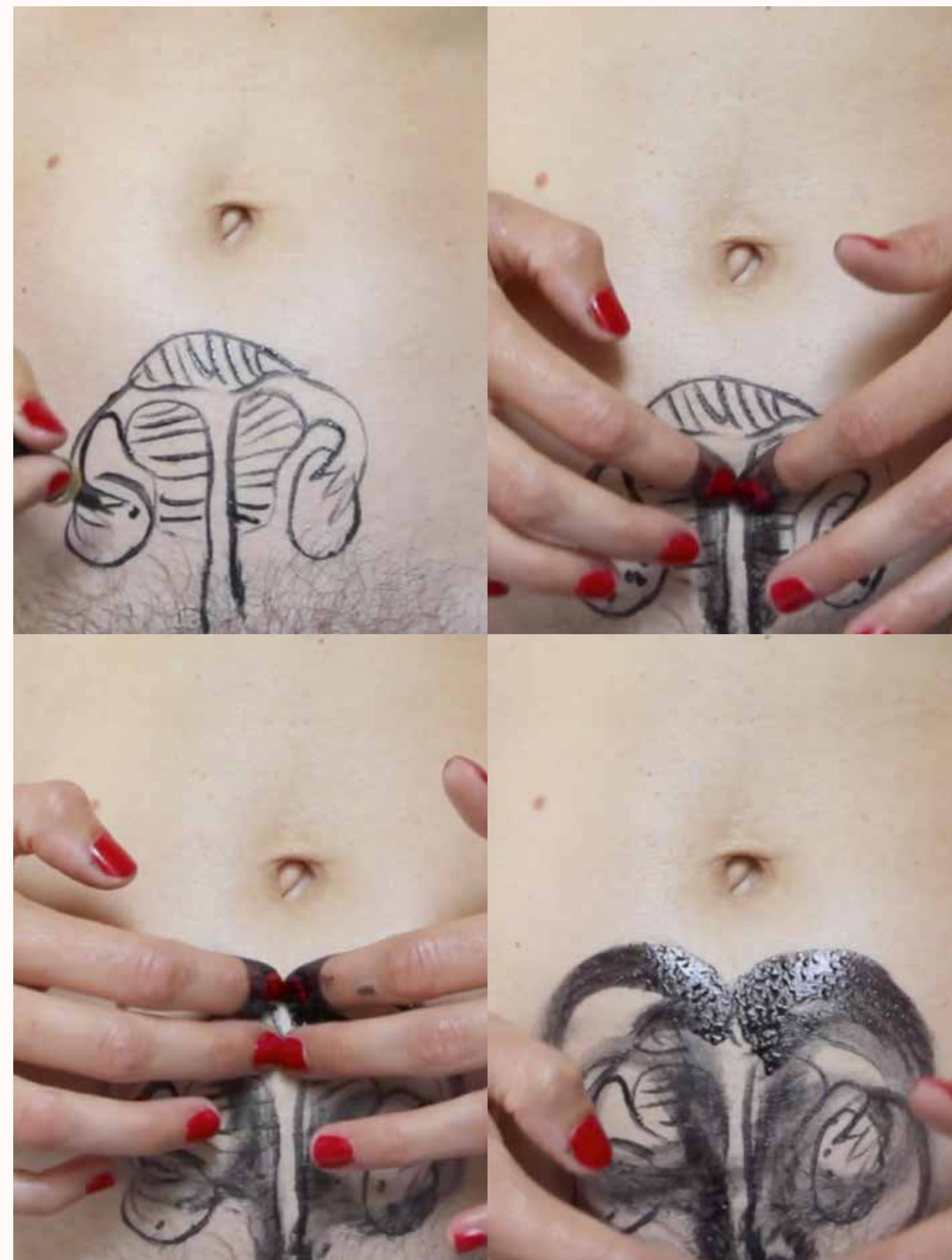
a sensuous mode of being in the world, but will constitute the primary mode itself.

Poetic revolution: The road to the Sensuous society is carved with poetic revolution and poetic revolutionaries taking the necessary interventionist steps.

No utopia: Sensuous Society is no utopia. Sensuous society is a framework to explore the radical idea of the aesthetic dimension, the sensuous and the poetic as the highest values of society. What kind of society would that create? **How?**

Performance Xperiments: We have no way of answering that question because we have not lived it. What we do have is the possibility to explore it through performance experiments. By putting our flesh to the idea. Embodying future visions to explore what it could be. While we explore we carve the path.

The school of a Sensuous society: The performance experiment Sisters Academy is one such experiment. In Sisters Academy we embody the school of a sensuous society. Through immersive strategies we transform space as we take over the leadership of a series of Nordic upper secondary schools.



SENSOUS UTERUS: In *Sensuous* we share our visions on what we term a Sensuous society. A vision, or rather a sense, that has been haunting us in our sleep for times and times ... (Photo: Stine Skott Olesen)



SISTERS ACADEMY #1 – Documentation (Photo: Diana Lindhardt, The I of Sisters Academy)



GRY WORRE HALLBERG embodying *The Sister*, giving her opening speech in *The Grand Hall* at *Sisters Academy #1* (photo: Diana Lindhardt, *The I of Sisters Academy*)

Everything from classrooms, hallways and bathrooms will be transformed physically through set-, light-, and sound-design. Your toilets will be pink, radiant or dark and filled with a low sound of humming or screams, the class rooms have turned into a forest, a ritual room, an ancient library, underneath the water, a fox cave and when you approach the leader of the school you will meet us embodying the unheimliche Sisters as head mistresses. Gazes exchanged.

We will greet you in an office of untamed animals, sweet heavy deep drinks, stamps, type writers, fluid chocolate and gold, chains, unwritten letters, fur on top of fur, fur in piles, red carpets, dimmed light, an unseen boarder that you sense, that you penetrate. That you penetrate because you are invited to. We become one. But two. But three. But many. A scent of times beyond time that will transcend your skin and tactilely touch you. Inspire you. Intervene you. Mirror you. Be you. Breath. The paradox of control and lush.

The method is interactive. When you are at our school you are a student or a teacher or a guest of Sisters Academy and we and our staff will engage with you only from this simple premise. The logic of our world. Our poetic and sensuous world. Our school of a sensuous society.

Our school where we explore new modes of sensuous knowledge creation, teaching, learning.

When we change our educational system we change the lives of many. We reach our. The road to a Sensuous society is carved with poetic revolutionaries.

Such are we as we reach. As we reach with kindreds in our movement. You leave your everyday persona to explore your

- WE NEED TO DEMOCRATIZE THE AESTHETIC MODE OF BEING TO OVERCOME THE LONGING AND SUFFERING THAT ITS GENERAL ABSENCE OUTSIDE THE ART SYSTEM CREATES.

potential poetic self while investigating how we can evoke and activate the senses to deepen the learning experience.

We work interventionist as we intervene into everyday life contexts using art to argue the need for the aesthetic dimension to be an integrated part of everyday life – Not as something exclusive and autonomous. We transcend. We penetrate. With you.

Space changing: The changing of space is crucial. We immerse in spaces that allow us to navigate differently in the world. Like bodies swallowed by the sea will move dissimilar from upright legs walking the ground beneath our feet. Instinctively this body will adjust to the fluidity of the water. Try to survive. Take in breath. When we change space we liberate new potential. Instinctual.

Space change impact: Working with the idea of a sensuous society is working with a radical premise that changes the DNA of society and thereby everything. It is what you can do when you work with immersive performance art strategies by which we change space. You set up a universe and within this universe a new set of rules that we must all play by apply. The body immerses in this universe and eventual the tactic knowledge will manifest in the flesh and the “players” or the participants of the universe might eventual act in this new way naturally. Instinctual.

No utopia revisited: Sensuous Society is no utopia. There will most probably be winners and looser here as well. Who is going to lead – The most beautiful?

The ones in touch with their senses? What will the trading system be? Something that allow you to be even more sensuous?

Maybe when we are through a sensuous society we can begin to approach a more balanced state of being, that draw on all the previous states of society and truly connects heart, mind, body and spirit and creates sustainable trading systems between all members of society. Maybe we can go there already? We can ask these questions through immersive and intervening performance art practices in everyday life contexts, as sites of experiments where we explore how to create a stage for the release of creative, expressive, poetic and sensuous energy as first steps toward a more balanced and engaging world. Everyone becomes co-makers toward the new.

We will do this.

Movement: When you have a cause and create a vibration centered in a universe and manifested in events that inspire others, the world will move in an assured and desired direction. ♦

GRY WORRE HALLBERG operate in the intersection of performance art, research, activism and future studies continuously executed in 1:1 co-created experiments such as, Sisters Academy, Dome of Visions and In100Y. Currently work on the project The Sensuous Society: Beyond economic rationality – Suggesting a sensuous mode of being in the world. For many years she has aimed at enriching environments with an aesthetic dimension through interventionist, interactive and immersive performance art strategies. Gry is the co-founder of a range of organizations and movements within the field of performance art applied in a series of different everyday-life contexts, among them Sisters Hope (ongoing project: Sisters Academy), House of Futures, Fiction Pimps, Club de la Faye, Staging Transitions and The Poetic Revolution.

Gry is a member of the global, urban network Theatrum Mundi initiated by prof. and urbanist Richard Sennett (NYU and LSE) and have completed several projects, articles and publications on intervening and relational performance art and new societies.

Besides her performance art practice she is an External Lecturer at Performance Design, Department of Communication, Business and Information Technologies at Roskilde University. She carry a MA in Theatre- and Performance Studies from The University of Copenhagen and Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro with a minor in Cultural Economy and Aesthetic Leadership from Copenhagen Business School.

INSPIRATIONAL LITERATURE

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Gry is also curating the performance-art program at the Roskilde festival and is the artistic director and head curator of the Dome of Visions.

FURTHER READING BY THE AUTHOR

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WEB

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sensuousociety.org
sistershope.dk
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DRAMA – OG TEATER – PEDAGOGENE



NÅR: LØRDAG 9. MAI KL 12-16 (ENKEL SERVERING)

HVOR: HØGSKOLEN I OSLO OG AKERSHUS, INSTITUTT FOR ESTETISKE FAG,
PILESTREDET PARK 33 (PP33)

ÅRSMØTEFEST: FRA KL 19 PÅ DEN STORE TAKTERRASSEN ELLER I FELLESAREALET
VED DRAMA- OG TEATERPEDAGOGENS KONTOR PÅ GRÜNERLØKKA I OSLO.

TA MED DRIKKE OG GJERNE GITAR. DET BLIR ENKEL SERVERING.

ADRESSE FOR FESTEN: TRONDHEIMSVEIEN 2, BYGG J, 6. ETG.

STEMMEREGLER PÅ ÅRSMØTET: Alle medlemmer har møte- tale- og forslagsrett. Styret i DTP sentralt og fylkeslagenes delegater har stemmerett. DTP har fylkeslag i Hordaland, Rogaland og Oslo-Akershus. Medlemmer fra fylker uten fylkeslag samles fylkesvis på årsmøtet og har én stemme per fylke.

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