

Hordaland Fylkeskommune Projektstøtte 2017
Mathijs van Geest, solo exhibition *Autumn of the Alphabet*
Visningsrommet USF Verftet Bergen

ABOUT MY WORK

With a focus on daily pliability, my interdisciplinary practice derives from constantly relating to our temporal behaviour, pursuing a broader view on universal, economic and social events. Through an observational practice, a close awareness on our shared environment, I initiate an analytical and responsive artistic practice.

I work between sculpture, photography, text and graphic products. Often, my materials and subjects are based on small gestures, cast-offs and daily notions viewed in a wide perspective. I am interested in the trajectories of things and take serious the aspects in life that are easily dismissed. It is essential to me to work with existing elements and work from a dependency of 'what is already in front of us'. Through simple interpretations as combining, describing and replacing, the works are given an open reading. They lead the public to a certain point and invite the viewer to finish the works with their own interpretation- making them part of the work.

Manifested through a 'documentary' and economical way of using sculpture, words, and photography, my works are carefully assembled into reserved and composed environments resulting in exhibitions, publications, and editions.

Beside my own practice I co-run a small publishing project names Apis Press and work as associate curator at Hordaland Kunstsenter in Bergen.

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EXHIBITION

I apply to Hordaland Fylkeskommune Projektstøtte to support my solo exhibition at Visningsrommet USF in Bergen, open from 17th to 27th of November. The exhibition will include new sculptures, photography, animation and graphic products with commissioned texts.

The exhibition with the title *Autumn of the Alphabet* will focus on the correlative between the categorised object and (poetic) text. The title *Autumn of the Alphabet* is a suggestion to look at language as a structure in continues process. Alike materials, also language follows revolving patterns of expansion, decay and revival -wether in sound, visually or of course in meaning. The title suggests a space where language is at a point past its productivity, but in the same time looking how to reinvent itself again.

Visningsrommet USF is a big exhibition space in the old sardine factory in Bergen. The architecture has a large window facade and two spacious rooms. I will use the open architecture to present my work in a broad and playful scale. I embrace the evident divide between the two spaces and create two rather contrasting environments between a full and light room and an empty and dark one.

Due to USF's small budget, I apply to Projektstøtte to support the production of new work, assistance for installation and guarding, promotion, a catalogue and the artist fee. The exhibition will be installed between 14. and 17. November and taken down on the 27th.

The 'light room' will present a large selection of works, filling the space with photographs and sculptures amount printed matter in the form of a publication with commissioned texts and comments towards the works in the exhibition. Between the works, their titles (pretext) and descriptions I focus on the dialogue between the physical and the linguistic. The 'light room' makes use of a 'reading stage' in the form of specially designed furniture to display works. Along the large windows, on the border of the in and outside, a long table will present a wide selection of works. A variety of sculptures, images, a selection of (new) artist books and texts the table functions as a horizon. With places to sit on, the table is positioned so that the visitor -when looking up from the table, faces life outside of the gallery.

In the second room, without direct daylight, two works are presented in a dark and empty installation. In a dialogue between a screen and a projection, the room becomes a conversation among the image and the narrative. The main starting point for this work is to create a hybrid between on the one hand a simple looped animation and on the other hand a narrated video. The screen shows an animated figure, sceptically staring into the space. In its ephemeral and undefined appearance, this figure takes the position of a silent observer. On the other side of the room a recorded observation is projected onto a large screen: a dark and empty parking lot. In slow but precise movements a small cleaning trolley systematically scans the space, cleaning its surface. Accompanied with a soundtrack, a voice-over speaking of observation as an artistic practice, reacts on the rhythm of the film.

Together, the exhibition takes the form of a diverse visual dialogue between a large variety of distinct works. Through this wide selection, I want to display my high and various productivity; presenting a 'way of looking/working' (vocabulary) more than one single project (essay).