

**LANGSOM
DVALE MOT NYE
STRÅLER AV LIV
KVAE & BARK**

CURATED BY MIKAEL ANDERSSON & ERIK TÖRNKVIST

KVAE & BARK: ***LANGSOM DVALE MOT NYE STRÅLER AV LIV***

A fragmentary timeline

20 October 2023

The genealogy of art. Its threads backwards and forward in time. Although art often has a temporal and spatial anchoring – a here and now –, artworks are not created in an isolated vacuum. There is always a backdrop. And movement. A quick look in my phone's photo library. The digital traces never disappear. Nothing can be erased. The material and conceptual threads behind KVAE & BARK's spatial installation *Langsom dvale mot nye stråler av liv* began to be spun about a year ago (and probably even earlier than so, if the perspective is widened). Location: Oslo. It was in connection with the artist duo's solo exhibition at UKS (Young Artists' Society) in the Norwegian capital that we first met. They were preparing the evening's performative dinner. The multi-part installation, which they both built and were working in at that moment, formed a kind of materialized ecology over an artistic practice that operates at the intersection of art and food, nature and culture, time and place, the sensual and the conceptual. Hand and thought. It was a test kitchen, an archive, a pantry, a dining table. A (changing) space.

12 January 2024

Several months later, after a long winter hibernation, we seriously began to discuss the possibilities of collaborating in Boden. Initially, we were only talking about the summer exhibition, *The Foundation of the Home*. Time was limited. Grant applications were being shaped. What could be achieved in just six months? It quickly became clear that certain elements and structures from the exhibition at UKS would have to be reused, but in a partly different

form. They needed to be reprogrammed. This was not just a practical solution to a time-related problem, but rather a part of KVAE & BARK's artistic practice. Reuse, seeing what an object can be transformed into in different contexts, the longer time perspective, extensions in both time and space, became part of the project.

Time/place

Since the early 2000s, place – concretely, philosophically, metaphorically – has been central in avantgarde cooking and then even in broader food-related contexts ("locally produced food" as a PR concept are now everywhere, even in supermarkets and gas stations). However, the exegesis around time, tempo, and precision is not as extensive, despite being qualities that are just as important in a professional kitchen.

16 April 2024

Site visit in Boden. The exhibition space being measured. Can the windows be covered? How can the café kitchen be used? Can the smoke hut be placed in front of the entrance? What does the Swedish Armed Forces say?

29 May–9 June 2024

To understand a place, one must be situated at the place. With one's body. One's senses. While building the summer exhibition, KVAE & BARK began their mapping of the landscape in Boden and its surroundings. In a world where information, ideas and objects constantly travel back and forth across the world, the slow art practiced by KVAE & BARK is unusual. But necessary.

28 September 2024

Dinner. Å samle og samles. Spending a prolonged period, several hours, in an artwork does something to both the work and the observer – the participant. And the room. The temporary visit transforms into a state of being. We follow the light changes. The sunset. The darkness.

Practical/functional sculptures

It's a well-chosen term that the artists use. At one moment, it's a table, the next a sculpture, then a room divider. In the exhibition space an installation, at home, in the garden, a little cabin. KVAE & BARK's objects have many identities, agencies. A constant metamorphosis.

29 September 2024

Right now, before my – and the visitor's – eyes, it's happening. The transformation. From summer to autumn and then further to winter. It's a spatial reprogramming, but also an artistic camouflage. A contraction. A place to retreat to. Find peace. Rest. Maybe read. Think. Textiles, branches, fish skin, birch bark. The colors of autumn. Reused material from the summer exhibition meets things from the nature and the PMU store in Boden. Benches and tables form a kind of wall structure. The place's resources are used, taken from both nature and culture, outside and inside the museum space. There is no desire in KVAE & BARK's art practice to conceal the process. The time. The boundaries. The seams. What happens during the work. Here is no desire to imitate nature, to blur the meeting between different materialities and sensorial realms. Front/back. Onstage/backstage. In other words: a play with Erving Goffman's somewhat worn-out theatrical metaphor.

Time/place, again

At Havremagasinet, time – fortiden – is materially present. The oats in constantly circulation in its architectural interior testify to the site's (military) historical past. The warehouse, the storage, the preservation. A living cultural heritage. KVAE & BARK prepare. Do. Manage. If the summer installation was an archive, then Langsom dvale mot nye stråler av liv is, in part, a conversion of the archive. An artistic seasonal adjustment. The French philosopher Bernard Stiegler argued that our sensual experiences have been "homogenized" due to the technologization and digitization of society and culture. We find the antithesis in KVAE & BARK's intimate space where the senses are intensified. You feel, smell, look, come close, bend your body, stretch out, sit down. Experience. As the art researcher Dan Karlholm suggests in his latest book: "What art – here: a shortening for visual art – is is a being rather than a was or has been." Art is. Changing.

12 October 2024

Opening.

MIKAEL ANDERSSON

**KVAE & BARK / LANGSOM
DVALE MOT NYE STRÅLER
AV LIV**

KVAE & BARK is a Norwegian artist duo consisting of Karoline Sætre (b. 1992) and Øyvind Novak Jenssen (b. 1988). *Langsom dvale mot nye stråler av liv* is an artistic interpretation of what it means in the context of food to ‘follow the seasons’ and builds on their installation *Sløret mellom redet og skogen*, which was included in the summer exhibition *Hemmets fundament*.

The grant was made with support from BKV (Billedkunstnernes Vederlagsfond/Norwegian Visual Artists Fund), Office for Contemporary Art Norway and the Arts Council Norway.

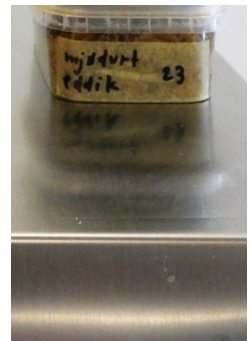
Curated by Mikael Andersson and Erik Törnkvist

All photographs taken by Erik Törnkvist.

LANGSOM DVALE MOT NYE STRÅLER AV LIV



FLOOR 2



LANGSOM DVALE MOT NYE STRÅLER AV LIV



THINK ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT:

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**Read more about Havremagasinet and
our upcoming events on our website!**

KVAE & BARK's artworks have been created with support from
BKV (Billedkunstnernes Vederlagsfond/Norwegian Visual Artists Fund),
Office for Contemporary Art Norway and the Arts Council Norway.

BKV

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