

WANÅS KONST

Art & Words
Festival



Jellyfish & Deep Dreams

WANÅS KONST
Hässelholmsvägen Vanås
289 21 Knislinge

info@wanaskonst.se
www.wanaskonst.se

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Wanås Art & Words Festival 2024

Jellyfish and Deep Dreams

On Saturday, October 5, Wanås Konst kicks off with the second edition of the *Wanås Art & Words Festival*, exploring contemporary art and literature inspired by nature and more-than-human worlds. This year's festival, titled *Jellyfish and Deep Dreams*, builds on the themes of the exhibition *The Ocean in the Forest*. The new artworks in the sculpture park explore an intuitive connection to the ocean through the senses, inviting you to observe, listen, and become more attuned to the natural world.

Join us for a full day of engaging activities, both indoors and outdoors, which will offer fresh air, art, food, music, and words along with an opportunity to reflect on the stories that shape our relationship with the planet and its diverse life forms. Drop by the creative workshop in the Studio and create your own jellyfish, or write ocean and forest stories. Play an ocean melody with other visitors on artist Eduardo Navarro's jellyfish that doubles as an instrument. Sit in on a collective listening session in Youmna Chlala's blue sun chairs and take a guided forest walk of the collection that explores how artists have worked with spoken and written text over the years. Encounter the South American giant otter in the beech wood at Wanås during Swedish artist Ingela Ihrman's live performance. In the afternoon, experience Finnish artist Tuomas A. Laitinen's electronic music set, accompanied by dreaming octopuses and wrap up the day with keynote speaker David Peña-Guzmán, author of *When Animals Dream*, who will share his insights on animal consciousness.

Get ready for a day for all the senses! Dress in layers and practical shoes, as many of the activities will take place outdoors in the beech forest at Wanås.

The festival is made possible by support from Region Skåne. The exhibitions program 2024 is supported by Östra Göinge kommun, Region Skåne, Kulturrådet and The Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation and the Wanås Konst Patrons Circle.

Tickets to the festival

The festival program is composed of different events, which are all free once you have paid admission to the sculpture park. Pre-registration is not required but appreciated. Some events have limited seating. You can secure a spot [HERE](#). If spots remain on the day of the festival, these will be released on a first come first served basis to visitors, who inquire at the ticket desk of the Wanås Shop.

Wanås Konst Club members join all activities for free and pre-book with booking code.

Transport

Parking at Wanås is included in your admission. Round trip bus from Copenhagen and Malmö can be booked [HERE](#). Questions, please email: info@wanaskonst.se

Food and drink

The café serves casual food, drinks, espresso, tea, and cake until 5:30 pm. Gluten-free and vegetarian options.

Shop

The shop is open all day, selling catalogues, local crafts, artist multiples and deli foods.

10.00		All Day
		Permanent Collection & this year's exhibitions
10.30		Drop-in creative workshop
11.00		Video installation: Tuomas A. Laitinen: <i>Haemocyanin</i>
11.30	Collective Listening Session: Youmna Chlala, <i>This Feeling, Oceanic</i>	
12.00		
12.30		
13.00		
13.30	Guided Tour: Words in the Forest	
14.00		
14.30	Performance: Ingela Ihrman, <i>Giant Otter Giving Birth in the Forest</i>	
15.00	Live AV-performance: Tuomas A. Laitinen, <i>Soma Oneiroi</i>	
15.30		
16.00	Talk: David Peña-Guzmán, Do jellyfish dream?	
16.30		
17.00		
17.30		

All Day

Permanent Collection & this year's exhibitions

The sculpture park, consisting of around 80 permanent works indoors and outdoors, is open all day. Make sure not to miss this year's exhibitions *The Ocean in the Forest* with temporary installations by Youmna Chlala, Evan Ifekoya, and Eduardo Navarro and Collection Highlight: *Meditation in a Beech Wood* (1996), Martin Puryear's newly restored reed sculpture.

How: Grab a map in the Main Barn. Look for art guides next to each of the new works in the sculpture park. They are there to give short intros and answer questions.

Drop-in creative workshop

Explore ocean and forest memories, and your own creativity. Try making a jellyfish, inspired by Eduardo Navarros sculpture and other fun activities! Popcorn and bubbles served.

What: Drop-in workshop for all ages
Where: Wanås Konst Studio in the Main Barn, the yellow room, and the outdoor Studio patio
How: Art guide will be present. Kids should be accompanied by an adult.

From 10.00 – 17.30

Video installation: Tuomas A. Laitinen: *Haemocyanin*, 2019

Finnish artist Tuomas A. Laitinen works around questions of ecology, animal consciousness, and the interconnectedness of beings. Since 2016, he has explored scientific octopus research, designing tubular blown-glass sculptures, intended as playgrounds for octopuses.

What: Looping video installation
Where: The Attic, The Main Barn
How: Drop-in. Appropriate for all ages. Kids should be accompanied by an adult.

Events

Collective Listening Session: Youmna Chlala, *This Feeling, Oceanic*, 2024

For this year's exhibition *The Ocean in the Forest*, artist and writer Youmna Chlala has created *This Feeling, Oceanic, 2024*, a narrative site-specific installation about Beirut, forests beneath the sea, and the shifting blue horizon line. The artist invites visitors to take a seat in sun lounge chairs and listen to a 10-minute story, while looking for the horizon line. Experience what happens to the way we absorb and understand the narrative, which is both personal and political, when we commit to being present and listen together in silence from beginning to end. The gathering will end with a short writing and/or drawing response. A guide (English) will offer instructions, pens, and paper.

What: Collective listening and short writing exercise.
When: 11.30. Duration 45 min. Please note: The sound work is in both English and Swedish.
Where: Meet at Wish Trees and walk with the guide to the artwork.
How: Drop-in. Please be on time.

Guided Tour: Words in the Forest

A guided collection tour of text-based works in the sculpture park. Wanås Konst's collection contains several works that incorporate spoken or written text. This tour will take you from Jenny Holzer's truisms on the stone wall to Evan Ifekoya's immerse intervention in a historic tea pavillon.

What: A guided tour (Swedish and English). We will look, listen, hear, and walk.
When: 13.30 – 14.30
Where: Collection point outside main entrance, Main Barn
How: Limited to 30 per group. First come, first served.

**Performance: Ingela Ihrman,
*Giant Otter Giving Birth in the Forest***

Artist Ingela Ihrman makes works that explore what it means to be human and non-human in a playful way. In her performances, she uses sculptural costumes to embody the forms of other living species, while exploring the possibilities and limitations of her own body. What significance does physical appearance have for how we see the world and how we are seen by others? How do we view an animal or plant behaving unexpectedly and what emotions does it elicit? The artist sees her performances as social situations, where the audience presence and reactions help make visible how humans and other life forms relate to one another. In the forest of Wanås, the artist has reimaged her 2012 performance *Giant Otter Giving Birth*, dedicated to the large South American carnivorous mammal.

What: Live performance

When: 14.30, duration 15 minutes

Where: Meet at Gernes *Pyramide* - from there short walk to performance site.

Live AV-performance: Tuomas A. Laitinen, *Soma Oneiroi*, 2024

In recent years, Laitinen has been working around questions of ecology, animal consciousness, and the interconnectedness of beings. Since 2016, he has explored scientific octopus research, designing tubular blown-glass sculptures, intended as playgrounds for octopuses. At Wanås the artist will perform electronic music inside an installation of footage he has filmed through his collaboration with the Cephalopod researchers at the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology in Japan.

What: Intro by the artist & live sound performance

When: 15.15 – 15.45, duration 30 min

Where: The Attic, The Main Barn

How: Drop-in. Limited capacity.

*Note the video installation *Haemocyanin* will be on view all day in this space.

**Talk: David Peña-Guzmán,
*Do jellyfish dream?***

Are humans the only dreamers on Earth? What goes on in the minds of animals when they sleep? Dr. Peña-Guzmán, author of the acclaimed book *When Animals Dream: The Hidden World of Animal Consciousness*, discusses these questions in a talk that delves into his research on animal dreaming throughout the scientific literature, building a convincing case for animals as conscious beings.

When: 16.00 - 17.00 Note: the talk starts on time and door will close. Please find your seats beforehand.

Where: Wanås Konst Studio in the Main Barn, The Green Room

How: Limited seating, pre-booking recommended. The talk will be in English.

Participants Biographies

Tuomas A. Laitinen (b. 1976, Riihimäki, Finland) graduated from the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts in 2008. He lives and works in Helsinki. Laitinen has exhibited his work broadly, both in Finland and internationally. In 2014-15, his work was the subject of a major solo at EMMA – Espoo, Finland Museum of Modern Art. And at Amado Art Space in Seoul, Korea in May, 2018. In 2021, Laitinen's works were shown in the Helsinki Biennial and he received the prestigious AVEK Award.

Youmna Chlala (born in Beirut, Lebanon and based in New York, USA) uses drawing, sculpture and installation to explore language, fate and architecture. In Chlala's installation in the park, a group of deckchairs forms a streak of color on the horizon and invite the viewer to sit back and listen to a poetic story where the artist's childhood memories of Beirut are mixed with reflections on the nature of the sea and forest.

Milena Høgsberg is the Director and Chief Curator of The Wanås Foundation and curator of the Wanås Art&Words Festival.

Evan Ifekoya (b. 1988 in Iperu, Nigeria, based in London, UK) is interested in the interaction between sound, architecture, nature and the human body. On a hill in the sculpture park, Ifekoya has made an architectural intervention in a gazebo or "folly" thought to have been constructed by the landowners in the 1920s, creating a sensory space for movement, sound and energy and their healing and transformative power.

Ingela Ihrman (b.1985 Kalmar, Sweden), studied at Konstfack in Stockholm where she now after many years in Malmö lives and works. Ihrman has had solo exhibitions at Malmö Konsthall (2023), Carl Eldh's Studio Museum, Stockholm (2023); Gasworks, London; Kristianstad konsthall (2018); der TANK, Institut Kunst, FHNW Academy of Art and Design, Basel (2017) and Tensta konsthall, Stockholm (2016). She has also participated in the Yokohama Triennale (2020); Nordic Pavilion, Venice Biennale (2019); and in the Gwangju Biennale (2016).

Eduardo Navarro (b. 1979, based in Argentina) creates situations that affect the senses and our perception of the world around us. In the sculpture park, Navarro invites the visitor and the wind to playfully interact with a huge jellyfish-like sculpture wrapping an old oak tree.

Dr. David Peña-Guzmán received his Ph.D. in Philosophy from Emory University in 2015 and is an Associate Professor at San Francisco State University. His work focuses on animal studies, the history and philosophy of science, continental philosophy, and theories of consciousness.