

From city walk to exhibition,  
"Göteborg: Nu, Då, Snart"  
Blå Stället / Angered Konsthall  
July 28 - September 30 2022  
Peter Nylund



Franska Tomten



Domkyrkan Göteborg



In summer 2022, I curated and produced the exhibition Vi Är Här: Konst och Gemenskap (We Are Here: Art and Community) at Blå Stället/Angered Konsthall. The exhibition was the second exhibition and the first formal such since the project #viärhär had started in 2020 when Covid restrictions barred the artist group from making a physical exhibition. As a solution to this issue then, the exhibition was moved to an online space ([viarhar.net](http://viarhar.net)) and a public poster intervention was created with help from Stadsbyggnadskontoret (City Planning Office) and Urban Konst at Göteborg Konsthall and installed at Esperantoplatsen, a historically significant LGBTQ+ location in Gothenburg.

Leading up to the production of the exhibition in 2022, I was also assigned by Blå Stället to tutor and guide a group of ten young summer/holiday workers that had applied for a job within the cultural sector through an expansive city program aiming to employ out-of-school youth for three weeks during their summer holiday. To make it into an extension of the exhibition, I enlisted one of the featured artists in the Vi Är Här exhibition, Alqumit Alhamad Jönsson.

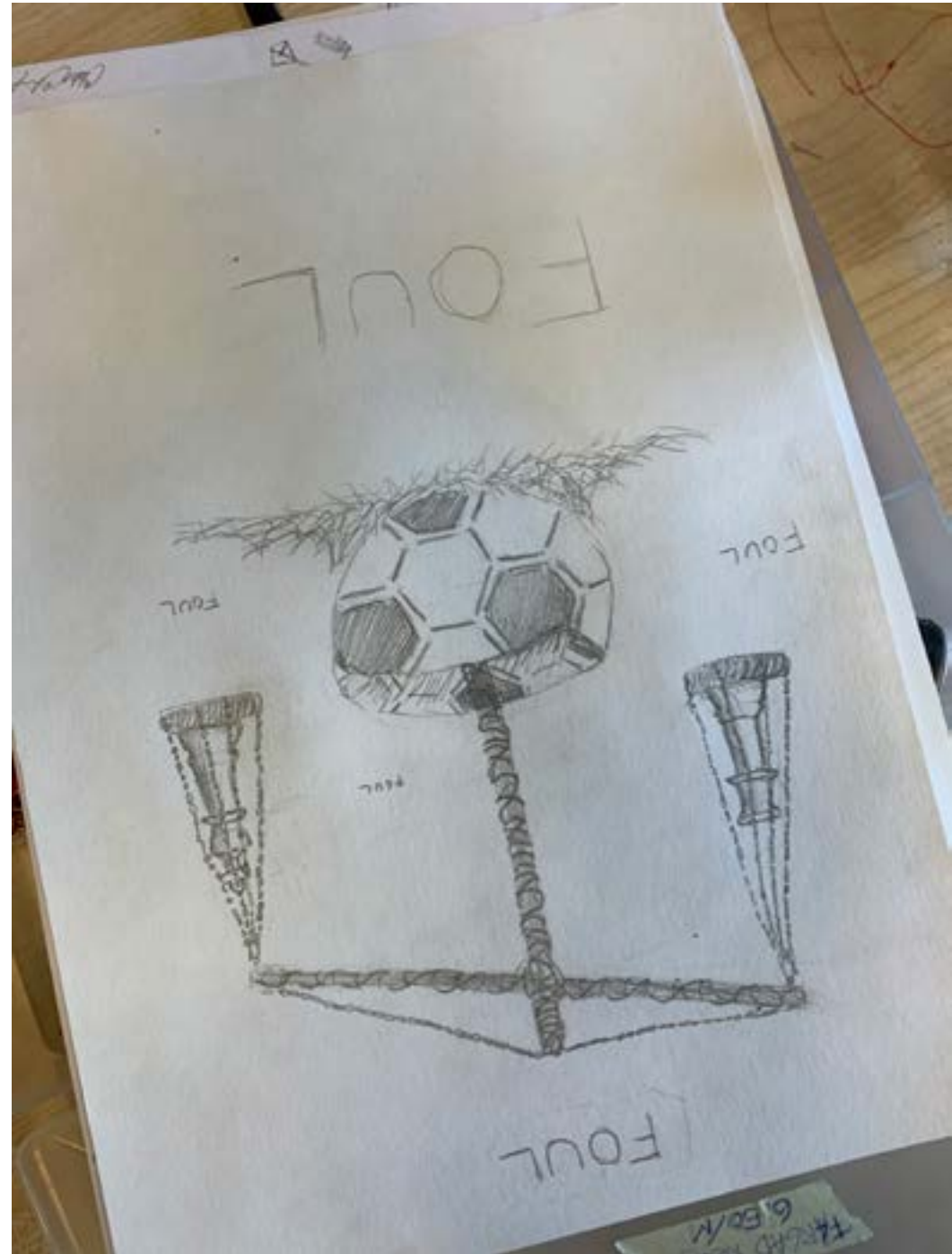
We began this work by taking them to the old site of Franska Tomten, where I began the discussion as outlined in the pre-study ‘The French Plot, the Delaware Monument, and the making of the “Good Colonizer.”’





The topic of Swedish colonialism was new to the participants, as the history it concerns is not taught in school curriculums in Sweden. There is a significant knowledge gap about the time period when Sweden's ambitions to take part in the colonial expansions in the Americas coincided with its internal colonization of Sapmi. It therefore raised some quite strong feeling in some of the participants, as many of them have family roots in countries that are immediately affected by European colonialism.

The day after, they were assigned the task of creating their own artworks that would respond to the city-walk and the living history behind it. We also introduced them to different forms of artistic expression, by taking them to see the exhibitions "The Queer Eye" and painter Nina Bondesson's solo exhibition as well as an introductory drawing workshop by Alhamad-Jönsson. Through extensive discussion with each of the participants, their own works started to form, all from different viewpoints and handling a wide range of topics, that ranged from gender inequality in professional sports, to examining the segregated city of Gothenburg, to the lack of racial representation in anime comics, to the working conditions of the makers of clothing in today's fashion industry, to addressing whiteness and beauty standards in advertising. The wide range of topics was also reflected in the choice of materials and processes that the participants chose, from both digital and analogue including collage and acrylic painting, to assemblage sculpture.



Images from the process. Sketches and thinking through collage



# Göteborg: Nu, Då, Snart

Utställning av:

**Abdinassir Afad**

**Ebba Ekerfors**

**Mastan Kamal**

**Elsa Landahl**

**Arvid Lange**

**Thi Nam Phuong Dinh**

**Josef Plata**

**Asra Talib**

**Celine Tang**

**30/6/22**

**Öppning kl 14-16**

Göteborg: Nu, Då, Snart är en utställning med verk av Abdinassir Afad, Ebba Ekerfors, Mastan Kamal, Elsa Landahl, Arvid Lange, Thi Nam Phuong Dinh, Josef Plata, Asra Talib och Celine Tang, skapade under deras sommar/ferie -arbete på Blå Stället under ledning av konstnärerna Alqumit Alhamad Jönsson och Peter Nylund.

Efter en inledande stadsvandring där Göteborgs koloniala historia diskuterades genom besök till befintliga monument i det offentliga rummet, blev gruppen tillbedda att tänka på, med, och om sin egen plats i denna historia. Denna tankeprocess blev sedan grunden för de arbeten som presenteras i utställningen.

Diskussionerna i gruppen har handlat om bl a vithetsnormer, visuella undersökningar av Sveriges koloniala historia, inblandningen i den transatlantiska handeln av förslavade människor och kopplingen mellan den tidens triangelhandel och de förhållanden som dagens arbetare i den sk "tredje världen" genomlever för att producera billiga kläder för modeindustrin, frågor om representation inom anime-världen, och om könsskillnader inom dagens idrottsindustri. Detta har sedan utmynnat i enskilda verk i skilda medium så som collage, målning i akryl, assemblage skulptur, och digitala metoder.

Utställningen uppmanar och utmanar oss att stanna till, att tänka till om vår egen historia, om vår nutid, om staden, och var vi vill att vi ska hamna i den icke så avlägsna framtiden.

Göteborg: Nu, Då, Snart is an exhibition with works by Abdinassir Afad, Ebba Ekerfors, Mastan Kamal, Elsa Landahl, Arvid Lange, Thi Nam Phuong Dinh, Josef Plata, Asra Talib och Celine Tang, created during their summer employment at Blå Stället under guidance by the artists Alqumit Alhamad Jönsson and Peter Nylund.

After an introductory city-walk where the colonial history of Gothenburg was discussed through visiting and walking among public monuments in public space, the group was asked to think about, with, and about their own place in this history. This thoughtprocess became the starting point from the works presented in the exhibition.

The group discussions have concerned whiteness norms, visual investigations into Sweden's colonial history, the country's peripheral involvement in the transatlantic trade of enslaved humans and the connections between the triangle trade and the conditions that workers in the so-called "third world" experiences to produce cheap clothing for the western fashion industry; questions on representation in the world of anime, and of gender differences in today's sports industries. The resulting works are presented in a wide range of mediums, such as collage, acrylic painting, assemblage sculpture, and digital processes.

The exhibition challenges us to stop for a moment, to think about our own history, about our present, about the city, and where we want to go in the not so far away future.





Installation view of exhibition



Installation view of exhibition



Installation view of exhibition

## **Göteborg är stort**

För den som alltid längtar till sin  
tätort

Vännerna blir en familj runt omkring  
Om du tar dig till nästa plats blir  
allting bra

Men om du inte någon gång vågar  
stanna

kommer du fastna

Den som alltid flyr hittar aldrig hem  
I Göteborgs världens hem

## **Vår Värld**

Vi väckte upp i en värld

Som inte ville veta rikedomen i vår historia  
Ett samhälle...

Ett samhälle som är rädd för människor  
Som såg

Och talade annorlunda

Tvingas glömma de livfulla färgerna  
Smaker och språk i vårt hemland

Gjorda för att passa in

Och driva bort från vårt arv

I rädsla för att bli ett offer för ett hatbrott

Så vi har modifierat

Ändrade håret och kläderna

För varje nytt ord

Låter mindre och mindre som hem

Väntan

Som solen på sin uppgång

Som biet på sin honung

Som tåget på sin avgång

Som hjärtan längtade att få vila



So grateful to have had the opportunity to work together with these amazing and brilliant young individuals.

