

# PAPER WORKS

Performance: May 25 - 29, 10.00 - 14.00

Panora front window, Friisgatan 19D, Malmö.

Facebook Live: [www.tiny.cc/paperworks](http://www.tiny.cc/paperworks)

Artists in Isolation Residency 2020:

PAPER WORKS

Maria Norrman, Johan Lundin, Emie // Eva-Marie Elg

Performance, 5 x 4h

Three artists exhibit 90% of their artistic activities, ie. the administration that enables creation under Artists in Isolation Residency at Biograf Panora in Malmö.

It may feel like a lack of togetherness, context and everyday meetings with colleagues. During occasional meetings, we complain in agreement with each other about our common existence, and talk about how changes can be made and we even implement them. This is how the Paper Works group exhibition took form. The participating artists met in common solitude and decided to create a context for a week where they can belong together.

In Paper Works we get to follow the three artists in their everyday work as a 4-hour long performance every day for 5 days. It becomes a way to perform "themselves" - the artist - to play on the one hand constructed in the situation but on the other hand the casuality with art administration.

Sweden is a country where it is possible for artists, even though it s extremely hard, to manage to survive economically through cultural support, scholarships, project funding and temporary assignments for years or an entire career. Many artists have access to fantastic studios, workshops, exhibition rooms and premises for their production, often without paying any rent. It is by no means a luxury in relation to the benefits that the artist contributes to Swedish society, but it is a fantastic privilege compared to the situation of artists in many other countries in the world.

A major problem is that it is difficult to feel integrated into society in the professional role as an artist when so much of the work is hidden and in solitude. There is no obvious togetherness and this uncertainty is more difficult to cope with than the financial uncertainty. The constant pursuit of temporary funding not only contributes to an art world characterized by competition, selfishness and individualism instead of community and collaboration, but also requires a tremendous amount of administration. The artists in Paper Works estimate that 90 percent of their work consists of what can be defined as paper work.

The multitude of expertise a contemporary artist needs to possess is excluding. In addition, basic social and economic security and stability are required to be able to choose this uncertain life situation. This creates an undemocratic situation where lots of types of voices are not integrated in the arts and cultural fields. It is no coincidence that we might appear as three healthy, functioning, white, artists with Swedish middle class background. The art world mainly looks like that, but the world doesn't look like that, Sweden doesn't look that way. The artists exists in a bubble.