

---

**Art and Shops**  
**1.6 2018–4.3 2019**  
**Tensta Centre**

**Norra Sidan**

# Tensta konsthall



## **Art and Shops 1.6 2018–4.3 2019**

Illustrations of fables behind the meat counter, fantastical sea animal water colours at the tailor's and wall paintings using ancient aboriginal mouth painting techniques at the barber's - these are examples of the art that can be seen just now in Tensta centrum. During this year Tensta konsthall will expand into new spaces with thirteen art projects resulting from collaboration between artists, shop owners, Tensta konsthall and Tensta centrum/Fastpartner. In the project, Art and Shops, art moves into the shelves, in the windows, on the counters of shops in and around Tensta centrum's building. In this way, art is presented in ordinary, everyday situations - for instance, when people buy their lunch, cut their hair - which gives opportunities for other forms of contact and exchange.

Tensta Centrum's opening ceremony was held in 1969 on the pedestrian street Tenstagången. A couple of years later, in 1975, the subway's blue line was opened, whose two entrances still frame the main building. During the 1980's, the shops were framed by glass in a postmodern style and the building assumed a church-like character, featuring tall glass window with orange frames and arched corridors. If the centre, during its younger days of the "million programme", consisted mainly of different types of social services, such as employment agencies, banks, pharmacies and post offices, the centre of 2018 is now a different place entirely, with the dominating presence of fast food restaurants, gift shops, and stores selling household goods. The shops featured in the exhibition are primarily small local businesses.

The project includes contributions by: Annika Eriksson, Bella Rune, Carin Ellberg, Carsten Höller, Dale Harding, Marie-Louise Ekman, Meriç Algün, Nina Svensson, Olivia Plender, Pinar Ögrenci, Salad Hilowle, Sorawit Songsatsaya and Thomas Elovsson.

Participating shops are: Safi shop center, Tensta krog, Apoteket Prinsen, Tensta modebutik, Ockar Salong, Boutique Chinchilla, Asal Kött Och Livs, IT forum, Tensta Sko & Nyckelservice & Väskor, Vissani, Rawabi Phone, Derman, Direkten, Tensta blommor, Medborgarkontoret, Centrumbyggnaden, Auel coffee.

Art and Shops is supported by Tensta centrum/Fastpartner and is part of the project, Many Paths, which in turn is part of Creative Places, under the auspices of Swedish Arts Council.

**Annika Eriksson / Tensta krog**  
**I am the dog that was always here,**  
**video, 7 min loop, 2013**  
**The Community, video, 7 min loop, 2010**

Annika Eriksson (Halmstad/Stockholm/Berlin) film *The Community* depicts a community of formerly well-cared-for domesticated cats, which in their current abandoned state live together in a park in Istanbul. Chronicling the cat gathering at night and the people in the area's relation to them during the day, the work hints at some of the processes of non-defined spaces, which temporarily allow for informal living-conditions to exist. Also an edition with videos from the daily situations in the park. In the video *I am the dog that was always here* the focus shifts to the outskirts if Istanbul were a gathering of dogs have been moved by the authorities to peripheral pockets outside the expanding city, as an attempt to clean the expanding city. In both of her works the artist depicts places in- and outside Istanbul, which in various ways is a part of the urban transformation that takes place as the city is placed into global economic competition. In her art, Eriksson is interested in human interaction, community building and our relationship with other living creatures.

**Tensta krog**  
Tensta krog has been run by Hassan Kulberg since 1989. He began working in Tensta centrum 41 years ago and has been there longest. Tensta krog serves pizzas, meat dishes and salads.

---

**Bella Rune / Boutique Chinchila, Direkten, Rawabi Phone, Vissani**

**To check out Bella Rune's sculptures: Download the app Konsekvensanalys (Consequence Analysis) on a cell phone (free on Appstore and Google play). Point the telephone towards the sculpture and see what happens!**

**Konsekvensanalys-Matta, detail image from Semiantik Täbris carpet, which lies in the board room of the Stockholm School of Economics, digital print on vinyl, 2018**

**Konsekvensanalys-Ventil, image of an ornamented ventilator in the board room of the Stockholm School of Economics, self-adhesive vinyl, 2018**

**Konsekvensanalys-Mobil, cell phone shape, with image of the philosopher, Friedrich Nietzsche's (1844-1900) death mask, which is in the Thielska gallery in Stockholm, digital print on cut-out Forex sheet, 2018**

**Konsekvensanalys-Kulturellt Kapital, (Cultural Capital), visual material from Ingemar Bergman's film, The Seventh Seal, and an American dollar bill, digital print on window film, 2018**

**What's actually happening in Tensta Centrum? At Direkten an air valve has begun to spout gold coins and inside the IT Forum Tensta, a mobile phone has become an portal to another world. The artist Bella Rune's (Stockholm) sculptures are created through the use of augmented reality, a kind of filter that becomes visible through an app on the phone. In this series, Rune uses textiles that are common in marketing, for example tote bags, banners and caps. They are paired with cell phones that have kind of become bodily extension of sorts, devises which both connects us to the outside world near and afar and cater to personal passions. The app makes the phone function like a scanner, detecting a virtual reality which is otherwise invisible. In this way, hidden messages can be found within objects and views which seem perfectly**

**normal, a tactic which has often been used as a way to protest, for example against dictatorship. By adding a layer of digital information over Tensta Centrum, Bella Rune's works open up the scene for alternative stories and new scenarios.**

**Boutique Chinchila**

**Boutique Chinchila has been supplying Tensta centrum customers with beautiful shawls, fun stockings and socks, party dresses and accessories for 18 years. Three people work in the shop.**

**Direkten**

**Direkten is a tobacco and betting shop that attracts many people to Tensta centrum every day. Tensta residents come to send letters, fetch their post, pay their bills, have a coffee, buy sweets and place bets on horses.**

**Vissani**

**Sherihan Vissani opened the pasta restaurant, Vissani, in Tensta centrum two years ago. She has lived in Sweden for five years. She was born in Milan, but her family comes from the village of Moro d 'Alba, near the city of Ancona in Italy. Generations of the Vissani family have been making their own pasta according to a 250 year old family tradition. Sherihan has learned the art of making pasta from her mother, who in turn learned it from her mother.**

**Carin Ellberg / Tensta modebutik Organisms with threads in the sea 1-4, water colour, 2018**

**Among the colorful shirt-boxes at Tensta Modebutik are four watercolors by Carin Ellberg (Stockholm). The motives appear to be studies taken from the depths of the sea, and through the brush strokes appear a jellyfish, algae, seaweed and a plankton. At the same time, the motives are liberatingly abstract. In the same way as science fiction genres displace what science claims, Ellberg's natural studies provide a space for the undiscovered and unknown. In her art, Ellberg has repeatedly worked on providing familiar**

materials and objects with poetical dimensions and new meanings by actively challenging our perception of them. The landscape is a recurring motive of the artist – both as a place in traditional sense, but also as a performance that overcomes the obvious. In her latest works in watercolor, Ellberg creates a free flow of color where she plays with nature's forms and emotional modes. The mysteries of the ocean and the body's constituents are intertwined in a very own universe.

#### **Tensta modebutik**

Tensta modebutik is a tailor's shop, run by two brothers, Amir and Mohammed Ibrahim. They have had the shop for 8 years. The shop offers a wide range, where each individual garment is chosen with care. The brothers make quality garments, mend or repair clothes and give good advice on all questions concerning clothing.

**Carsten Höller / Centrum Building  
Upside-Down Goggles, 1994–ongoing  
Acrylic glass prisms, aluminum, polyethylene, polypropylene, foam, leather,  
nylon 13 x 30 x 24 cm.**

#### **On display January–August 2018**

How would we perceive the world if one could see it upside-down? And what would happen to the human mind if this vision lasted for days? Should/ Would the body adapt to new ways of entering information? The artist Carsten Höller (Brussels/Stockholm/Biriwa) has worked since 1994 with a pair of upside-down glasses based on the researcher and psychologist George Stratton's investigations from the late 1800's. Stratton experimented with a kind of binoculars, which inverted images both upside-down and left-right. He himself tests his inventions in studies that lasted up to eight days. Höller's glasses have since been created in a variety of ways: from allowing participants to do short tests for longer surveys in the sights labyrinths. In group exhibitions like Art and Shops, they provide the viewer with an instrument that enables one to

see both the exhibition rooms and the rest of the artworks in a new light. In an earlier version of the work, Höller has also directed the lens toward his own internship and turned his way up and down on his own exhibition. Höller is an artist with a background in science and disputed in the 1980's with a dissertation on fragrance communication among aphids and its enemies.

#### **Dale Harding / Ockar Salong, Glass wall towards Tensta passage**

**Composition Red Ochre Tensta, mural painting made together with employees and customers at Ockar Salong, 2018  
Composition Gum Arabic Tensta, mural painting made together with participants from Tensta konsthalls Womens café and the Silent university language café, 2018**

Large-scale murals have been a frequent part of Dale Harding's (Brisbane) art, and for Art and Shops he has created two new paintings specifically for Tensta Centrum. In its murals, the artist uses red ochre, a natural pigment found in sandstone areas around Queensland, but also strongly associated with the Swedish cultural heritage through, for example the Viking Age's rune stones – a story that is particularly evident in Tensta through the many archaeological findings in the area. The mural patterns is created by a technique derived from Aboriginal culture, which means putting pigment in your mouth and blowing it on objects, creating a stencil-like pattern – some people call it the oldest painting technique in the world. Harding was born in Queensland, Australia, and explores the artistic traditions managed by his ancestors among the Aboriginals Bidjara, Ghungalu and Garingbal. Harding often creates narrative items that contain the history and fingerprints of his people, and he uses special techniques and craft methods as a mean of marking a political recovery ability.

#### **Ockar Salong**

Sirwan and Mahdi have had a hairdressing salon for 17 years. They cut the hair of children, men and women and the salon is always full of customers. The

---

hairdressers have contributed their own personal scissors and combs to Dale Harding's wall painting.

#### **Glass wall towards Tensta passage**

In the 1980s, the shops in Tensta centrum were glassed-in in a typical post-modern way giving the building a church-like character, with high glass windows with orange frames, and with arched passageways.

#### **Marie-Louise Ekman / Apoteket Prinsen Fantasy Meeting, lithography, 2017**

In Marie-Louise Ekman's (Stockholm) work, the unexpected and break down of norms are not only made as something understandable, but also self-evident. Borders are crossed and identities are expanded without rising an eyebrow. In everyday banal scenes, political, erotic and artistic taboos are exceeded using a playful "pop nativism", a mixture of references to 1960s pop art and naive expressions from self-taught artists and children's illustrations. Throughout her career, Ekman has worked with graphics in various forms. The lithography *Fantasy Meeting* from 2017 is being sold to benefit the Women's Center in Tensta-Hjulsta (KITH), a trans-ethnic association with about 250 members of over 30 different native languages. KITH was founded in 1997 and, among other things, hosts language and computer courses in association premises in Tensta. It functions as an extended living room for women of all ages – a unique and safe meeting place that is shaped on the women's own terms.

*Fantasy Meeting* is available in 450 copies and will cost 4500 SEK each. While sales are handled by Tensta konsthall, the money goes directly to KITH. For purchase, please email [didem@tenstakonsthall.se](mailto:didem@tenstakonsthall.se)  
**Apoteket Prinsen (Prinsen Pharmacy)**  
Concurrently with the opening of Art and Shops, the Prinsen pharmacy will celebrate its first year in Tensta centrum. Prinsen is run by Mortadh Muhel, helped by three employees. All customers are made to feel welcome in

Prinsen, which, in addition to being an ordinary pharmacy, also offers other services such as taking blood pressure and ear-piercing.

#### **Meric Algün / Glass entrance Ö (The Mutual Letter) Sound installation, 120 min, 2011**

"Cocoa, Cocoa, Coconut, Coconut, Calorie, Calorie" Inside the glass entrance in Tensta, the audio-visual *Ö (The Mutual Letter)* can be heard two hours a day. The work is a sort of Turkish-Swedish dictionary that the artist Meric Algün (Istanbul/Stockholm) compiled and which consists of all the words with the same spelling and meaning in a Swedish and Turkish dictionary. In the work, one learns how the artist and her partner read the 1276 words one after another in alphabetical order. Maybe it sounds as if both of them fail to mimic each other, instead of the two people actually speaking their own language. Algün has in several previous projects returned to questions about citizenship, identity, languages and systems. One point of departure has been the artist's own experience of moving from Turkey to Sweden, and the progress that migration structures implies.

#### **Glass entrance**

The city center complex in Tensta was inaugurated in 1969, and has since then been subject to several changes. The most extensive transformation was made in the 1980s, when the shops located on the south side of Tenstagången were built together and framed by means of high glass roofs. This was made to create a more climate protective/protected indoor mall. The glass entrance where Meric Algün's sound installation is played came into existence as a part of this rebuilding project. Next to the entrance, facing the recently installed Gullingeparken, is Lidl.

**Nina Svensson / IT Forum**  
**Pling – you've got a message, glass cabinet with artifacts made by children from Elinsborgsskolan in Tensta as well as Konstfack students.**

In one part of the mobile and technology supply shop IT Forum Tensta, there is a glass cabinet filled with various messages and ceramic objects. The contents of the cabinet were made by third grade students from the elementary school Elinsborgsskolan in Tensta, sitting alongside ceramic supplements depicting fruits, made by Konstfack students aiming to learn and to take form from objects. The inspiration of Nina Svensson's (Timrå/Stockholm) work has been two paintings that normally hang at Elinborgsskolan, which at the moment are part of an exhibition at Tensta konsthall that has gathered art from the public schools in Tensta. What these paintings look like is described by a voice in the telephone mouthpiece placed beside the glass cabinet in IT Forum. The voice belongs to one of the students who describes the two artworks. The starting point of Svensson's installation was a workshop realized together with students at Elinsborgsskolan youth leisure center. This workshop was organized in collaboration with artist Bernd Krauss for the project Art Treasures: Grains of Gold from Tensta's Public Schools earlier this spring. The form of the glass cabinet refers to similar cabinets frequently placed in schools, marking the remaining spaces within the area where art can be exhibited. This is a consequence of how art has more and more been replaced from the walls of the school into teacher's staff rooms and offices. The idea of art's placement within schools stems from the late 19th century when pedagogues such as Ellen Key and Carl G. Laurin articulated the importance of art in the public sphere as a means to stimulate an interest in art among school children and young people.

**IT Forum**  
IT Forum has been run by Adam and

Josef for 13 years. IT Forum offers a wide range of goods, for example computer accessories, IPTV, parabola antennas, and telephones.

**Pinar Ögrenci / Tensta Sko & Nyckelservice & Väskor**  
**A Gentle Breeze Passed Over Us, video 6 min, 2017**

In Pinar Ögrenci's (Istanbul/Berlin) poetic work **A Gentle Breeze Passed Over Us**, the string instrument uod softly slides across the waters of the Aegean Sea. The title of the film takes its name from a song by the Lebanese singer Fairuz. Often preformed in the streets of Istanbul by Middle Eastern musicians, the song symbolizes the longing for one's home country. Ögrenci's film is an audio-visual testimony, a recording of the establishment of a friendship between the artist and Ahmed Obaid, a musician and oud player from Baghdad, whom she met in Vienna and who had arrived as an asylum seeker. During the 40 days of her stay in the city Ögrenci spent nearly every day with Ahmed and his friends, recorded the music they spontaneously performed and the stories Ahmed was telling every night into the late hours. The film tells the story of resistance of a young Arab musician, who was forced to abandon his country after a childhood spent in the shadow of war, and then sought to build himself a life by playing the music in the city of Vienna.

**Tensta Sko & Nyckelservice & Väskor (Tensta Shoe & Key Service & Bags)**  
Paul Elias from Södertälje has had his shoemaker's shop for 18 years. He repairs women's and men's shoes, dance shoes, boots, and bags. Customers can also have their keys copied and their zippers repaired, and they can buy shoe accessories and bags.

## **Olivia Plender / Asal Kött Och Livs**

**The Inside Out Lion, drawing, 2017**

**The Rainbow Knot, drawing, 2017**

**The Magic Cup, drawing, 2017**

### **From The Easton Fables**

“There was once a cup, a magic cup, so large, that the whole world could fit inside it.” So begins one of the stories in the drawing series of **Easton’s Fables**. The short stories are written by children from the elementary school **Easton CE Academy** in Bristol, England, along with the artist **Olivia Plender** (London/ Stockholm). Fables are stories where animals assume human qualities and often want to convey a moral lesson to the reader. The stories were produced during a workshop, where the artist taught students to play classical string games and then create stories based on the patterns that they could distinguish in the different shapes of the line. String games are found all over the world and are a type of historically knowledge transferred between countries of people who crossed the oceans. The games are called different things in different places when they were linked to local contexts and stories. The drawing show children’s experiences of security, peace and happiness, seen in relation to subjects such as war and migration but also everyday life at school. Plender is a PhD student at the **Royal Institute of Fine Arts** in Stockholm and works with a dissertation on the relationship between art and audience.

**Asal Kött och Livs** opened just a week before the opening of **Art and Shops**. The store offers a fine supply of groceries, such as halal meat, vegetables, and other foods.

### **Salad Hilowle / Safi Shop Center Letters to Sweden, film 7 min, 2017**

“Forget origin, check heart”. So begins the suggestion from a mother to a daughter in **Salad Hilowle’s** (Gävle/ Stockholm) celebrated fictional documentary film **Letter to Sweden**. The mother has moved back to her

homeland **Somalia**, but missing the **Sweden** she can recall. The daughter who lives in **Gävle** has another picture of **Sweden**. The story of the film is made up of extracts from letter they write to each other. Visually, portraits of family albums and home videos are mixed with the scenes from a vibrant city life, demonstrations and residential areas – materials taken from both **Sweden** and **Somalia**. Overall, the film is a poetic view of what we actually call “home”. Is it a place filled with memories? Or is it anything else? **Hilowle** is a student at **Konstfack** and has previously directed short films and music videos. **Letter to Sweden** is his second film, right now **Hilowle** is working on a film exhibition about **Tensta konsthall** as a part of the 20th anniversary of the konsthall.

### **Safi Shop Center**

**Safi Shop Center** has been run by the **Safi family** for 8 years. The shop provides most things needed in the home, from bedlinen, glasses, pots and pans to decorative objects.

### **Sorawit Songsataya**

**Coyotes Running Opposite Ways,**  
animated HD video, 5 min, 2016

In **Sorawit Songsatayas** (Chiang Mai/ Auckland) art, traditional craftsmanship meets digitized labor. In the video **Coyotes Running Opposite Ways** a set of dark hands are “playing” a knitted square using objects that looks like plastic twigs in bright colors, all seen from above. Suddenly some of the objects take off and fly away. The scene is followed by close-ups on textile fibers and then switches back to the hands. They are busy making shapes in a snap and then holding these exquisitely simple games that can be found all over the planet against a starry sky. The video is a 3D animation and is slightly surrealistic, the imagery is enveloped by the rhythmical sound of something resembling bell. The title of the video nods to **Joseph Beuys’** 1974 performance **I Like America and America Likes Me**, in which **Beuys** – covered in a felt blanket spend three days with a wild coyote in a gallery space

---

in New York, without putting his foot on American soil. Songsataya also refers to both Maori and Navajo string games in the video, and he has also studied the New Zealand's Maori's cloak making, feather, adornments and raft buildings. Right now, he is learning hand weaving techniques and using 3D scanning, modelling and printing.

#### **Derman**

Three people work in the shop in Tensta centrum. Derman is filled with lace, beads, glitter and ruffles - festive clothes for adults and children.

**Thomas Elovsson / Apoteket Prinsen, IT Forum, Medborgarkontoret, Tensta blommor, Auel Coffee  
A Proposal for Daily Life (Aubergine, Lime, Tomato, Fire), series of 12 paintings, 2018**

Straight through Tensta stretches the Tenstagången with a flower pattern made of concrete blocks on the ground. It stands out against the other architecture and form a flowerbed in the concrete buildings – a kind of mile program response to the famous black and white wave patterns on Copacabana's seafront promenade in Rio de Janeiro. The pattern, with its references, history and possibilities, is the part of departure for a series of paintings by the artist Thomas Elovsson (Stockholm). The pattern has clear connections to so called land-art, a direction in art and design in the 1960s that used geometric shapes to achieve optical effects. To let the style spread across the entire Tenstagång area, it also makes a work of landscape itself. In Elovsson's paintings, the parts have been relocated so that new forms have emerged as the thoughts of abstract art from the 20th century. When the parts of the pattern are arranged, it also reflects the changes that have taken place in the space of almost fifty year. The paintings that are part of Art and Shops are deployed in various locations around the city center. Following them creates a movement that, in line with the

patterns, acts as a choreography or a score for a daily life in Tensta.

**Apoteket Prinsen (Prinsen Pharmacy)**  
Concurrently with the opening of Art and Shops, the Prinsen pharmacy will celebrate its first year in Tensta centrum. Prinsen is run by Mortadh Muhel, helped by three employees. All customers are made to feel welcome in Prinsen, which, in addition to being an ordinary pharmacy, also offers other services such as taking blood pressure and ear-piercing.

#### **IT Forum**

IT Forum has been run by Adam and Josef for 13 years. IT Forum offers a wide range of goods, for example computer accessories, IPTV, parabola antennas, and telephones.

#### **Medborgarkontoret (Citizens' Advice Centre)**

The citizens' Advice Centre, which is run by the Spånga-Tensta City District Administration, is one of the most frequently visited places in Tensta centrum. Residents can find help with, for example, student counselling, advice on budgets and debts, consumer questions, mobility and transport services, child care, etc.

#### **Tensta blommor (Tensta Florist)**

The Tensta Florist shop has been run by Faray Ahamon for the last 15 years. It has cut flowers, potted plants, funeral wreaths, wedding bouquets, and ceramic objects. Faray Chamon loves nature and his own favourite flower is the orchid.

#### **Auel Coffee**

The café in Tensta konsthall comprises the entrance to the gallery. Since 2016 it has been run by Auel Coffee, a local family business lead by three brothers and their mother Emma. "Auel" means the day's first cup of coffee in Tigrinya, and coffee is Auel's specialty. The café offers free internet and functions as a meeting place for people and for clubs, organisations and other groups in the neighbourhood.







---

**Tensta konsthall Staff**

**Ailin Moaf Mirlashari**

host

**Asha Mohamed**

assistant

**Didem Yildirim**

production assistant

**Fahyma Alnablsi**

reception and Language Café

**Fredda Berg**

host

**Hanna Nordell**

producer

**Isabella Tjäder**

communications and press

**Makda Embaie**

assistant

**Maria Lind**

director

**Muna Al Yaqoobi**

assistant Womens' Café

**Nawroz Zakholy**

assistant

**Nina Svensson**

mediator

**Rasmus Sjöbeck**

host

**Interns**

**Felicia Edström**

**Jasmina Saric**

**Karolin Grahn**

**Installation**

**Johan Wahlgren**

**Ulrika Gomm**