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Annual Report

PUBLICS

2020

PUBLICS

Established in 2017 PUBLICS is a curatorial agency with a dedicated library and an event space in Vallila. PUBLICS works as an educational platform where a diverse group of artists, curators, cultural workers and students are invited to engage with social issues as well as share knowledge.

PUBLICS collaborates and supports others who share the investment in public life of art locally and globally. The organisation is driven by the ambition to recognize movements within the society, create connections between different communities to provide an open-ended, ethically led platform. PUBLICS is under the artistic direction of curator and researcher Paul O'Neill together with program manager Eliisa Suvanto. PUBLICS pays and promotes a standard fee for every collaborator in four different categories: a talk, a workshop, an event, a newly commissioned work.

PUBLICS nurtures a large dedicated mixed public for our program; diverse in age, race, gender, education, class. We encourage a wide range of participation through our activities and commissions. This extends into future public art commissions focusing on longer-term audience development and widening participation. Additionally, we expand audience inclusion by making our space and facilities free to other organizations, independents and groups in the city. We provide support and our resources as hosts of their public events – a strategy to help various other art initiatives in need of space in the city and helping to widen inclusivity across the arts and culture by bringing different audiences together. PUBLICS also co-hosts many gatherings, listening sessions, talks, events, workshops and other activities with various art practitioners, community groups and audiences as a means of supporting and advancing discussion, awareness and diversity in art and culture.

In order to function as a multidimensional and purposed organization, PUBLICS is committed to work with underrepresented cultural workers as well as artists/curators emerging from diverse social and economic backgrounds. PUBLICS prioritizes working with collaborators whose practice is based on politics supporting intersectional dialogue and collaborations. Our collaborative methodology and consultation aim to represent an ecology and diversity of thought and experience.

The operative principles are: 1. PUBLICS is discursive and instigates dialogue between local, regional and international art. 2. PUBLICS commissions, produces and curates durational, long-term contemporary public art. 3. PUBLICS recognizes the need to identify, activate and actualize diverse publics for contemporary art. 4. PUBLICS is an educational, civic and public resource. 5. PUBLICS is dedicated to debating, curating, imagining and making contemporary art in, with, and in relation to its multiple publics.

The on-going project strands include: PUBLICS Library; PUBLICS Talks; PUBLICS Events and Performances; and PUBLICS Parahosting. These initiatives are organised in parallel with its longer-term curatorial programmes, PUBLICS Public Art Commissions.

ACTIVITIES



Trials and Trails by Mona Marzouk. Photo: Noora Lehtovuori

In 2020 PUBLICS was planning to fully enter the third phase of its organisational development, having firstly focused on creating platforms for collaboration with mainly international artists, visiting curators, and partners. For its second phase, PUBLICS bridged these extensive activities and productions: linking visiting practitioners with an intense program of collaboration between local and regional cultural workers, artists and organisational partners.

The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic significantly redefined most of the planned program and many of the activities were postponed until 2021. Much of this year was navigated through extreme uncertainties, and imagining ways and approaches as to how PUBLICS would adapt to the constantly changing and challenging circumstances, whilst supporting the artists, curators and other collaborators with whom we are committed to. The year also enabled PUBLICS to focus on any of its digital, and on-line formatted program, and more longer term partnerships and funding bids. We dedicated time to focus our Library program, and to additionally reorder its contents and reorganise our space safely. In spite of it being a year of rescheduling, and restructuring our plans, we were able to reorganise or reimagine many of our projects, and to find new ways for more hybrid future public gatherings to take place or to plan for a later date.

In 2020 PUBLICS realised *Today is Our Tomorrow* Online Film Program (6–18/4/2020) originally shown at the annual festival in the Autumn of 2019 and planned to be shown and installed at PUBLICS space in 2020. We were delighted to re-show this series of films as an online curated

program (two per week) at an early stage of the pandemic, and to offer modest support to these artists through screening fees and to expand our audiences for this carefully curated film program. PUBLICS continued its public art commissions with artists Mona Marzouk and Ian Whittlesea for PUBLICS' street level windows in Vallila. The two window-sited public art commissions were possible to be viewed from outside.

TIMELINE

PUBLICS Commissions:

- 11 May – Ongoing, *ACROSS THE WAY WITH...* in collaboration with Shimmer
- 10 Jun, *Trials and Trails* by Mona Marzouk
- 16 Dec, *Four Texts For PUBLICS* by Ian Whittlesea

PUBLICS Talks:

- 3 May, *Unacceptable: The Unpublicness of Public Archives* by Yane Calovski, in collaboration with Kuntshalle Kohta
- 3 May, *Salt in the Wound* by Jurriaan Benschop, in collaboration with Garret Publications
- 29 Oct, *EX LIBRIS* by The Serving Library, in collaboration with the Academy of Fine Arts

PUBLICS Events:

- 15 Jan, *PUBLICS SHIMMER: Gordon Hall gives a reading*, in collaboration with Shimmer
- 18 Mar, Adrian Melis: *The Paradox of Labour* (Cancelled), in collaboration with Pori Art Museum and Adn Gallery
- 6–18 Apr, *Today is Our Tomorrow* Online Film Screening
- 18–19 Sept, The Already Not-Yet Becoming Collective (Ima Iduozee, Iida Nissinen, Joy Mariama Smith, Vishnu Vardhani, Jeanne van Heeswijk), in collaboration with Another Academy and Theatre Academy
- 19 Oct, *Dynamic Workshop* by Total Art School, in collaboration with Live Art and Performance Studies (LAPS) of Theatre Academy

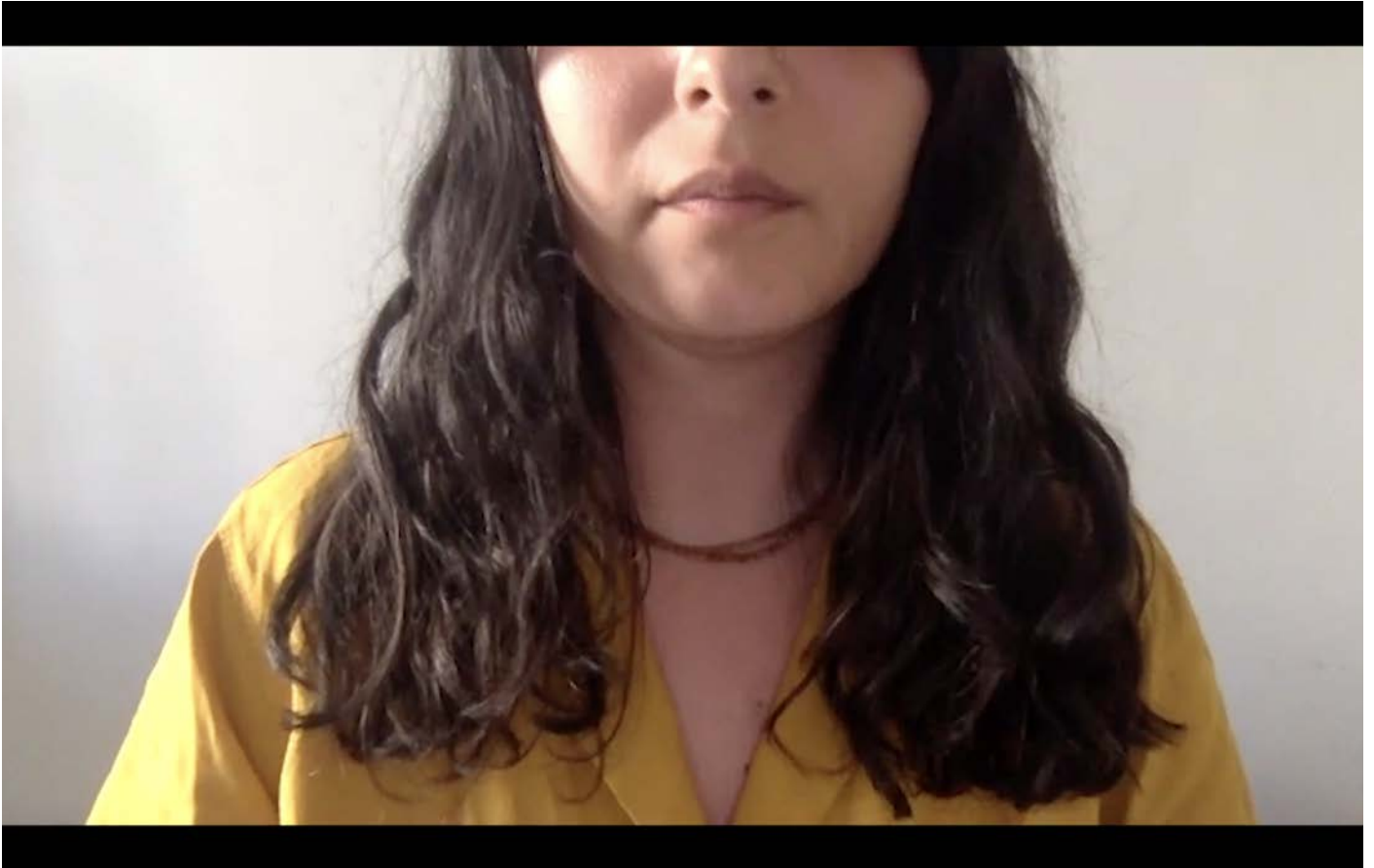
PUBLICS Parahosting:

- 25 Feb, Matteo Lucchetti & Judith Wielander: *Presenting the Visible – Spatial Relationships of the Social*, in collaboration with Arts Promotion Centre Finland
- 27 Feb, Nora Sternfeld & Adrian Heathfield: *Why Exhibit At All? / Some Futures*
- 20–24 Jun, DEMO Moving Image Festival & Jenna Sutela: *Holobiont*
- 25 Sept, *The Itching Triangle* by Jari Kallio, Vidha Saumya and varialambo
- 30 Oct, *Six Years in the Third Space* by Third Space collective

OUT OF THE LIBRARY:

- 15 Jan, With Gordon Hall, Eloise Sweetman & Jason Hendrik Hansma
- 9 Jun, Black Studies by PUBLICS staff
- 18 Sept, Education by Paul O'Neill
- 1 Oct, 2084 by Per Hüttner & Vidha Saumya, in collaboration with Catalyisti
- 29 Oct, The Publishing Reader by Tuukka Kaila

PROGRAM



ACROSS THE WAY WITH... Alaa Abu Asad & Ulufer Çelik

PUBLICS COMMISSIONS

ACROSS THE WAY WITH...

Readers in 2020: Élisabeth Lebovici, Fayen d'Evie, Gordon Hall, Raqs Media Collective, Isabelle Sully, Matthew Stadler, Sarah Rifky, Eloise Sweetman, Abdullah Qureshi, Jason Hendrik Hansma, Niko Hallikainen, Çağlar Köseoğlu, Alireza Abbasy, Alaa Abu Asad & Ulufer Çelik, Adelaide Bannerman, Dagmar Bosma.

Conceptualized and organized by Shimmer (Rotterdam) and co-commissioned by PUBLICS, *ACROSS THE WAY WITH...* is an expanding series of informal readings of, with, and about intimacy in the public domain. In this program, we were thinking about the texture of the voice, the rhythm of a body, the poetic and artistic forms of writing and how these forms of intimacy can be 'voiced' publically. Together, we created a space that is both public and intimate, digital and analogue, distant and in proximity. We chose to create an online platform as a support for the Act of reading aloud for others and with others. For the audience, the readings are an intimate act of being read to, to experience the intimate texture of the voice, the rhythm of breathing, the digitized voice streaming to you.

ACROSS THE WAY WITH... was co-supported by The Finnish Cultural and Academic Institutes' Together Alone project, Creative Industries Fund NL, and Centrum Beeldende Kunst Rotterdam.

MONA MARZOUK: TRIALS AND TRAILS

Mona Marzouk's hand painted mural *Trials and Trails* was the second PUBLICS window-sited public art commission. Redeploying selective images from earlier paintings, *Trials and Trails*, gathered divergent histories of language, law, struggle, labour and social injustices together and reprocessed them as compressed symbolic images and abstracted narrative forms.

In 2019 Mona Marzouk (Born Alexandria, Egypt – Lives Helsinki) made a site responsive work based on the artist's series *Renewal and Trayvon*, and this was shown as part of the *Today Is Our Tomorrow* festival.



Ian Whittlesea:
Four Texts For PUBLICS
Photo: Noora Lehtovuori

IAN WHITTLESEA: FOUR TEXTS FOR PUBLICS

Four Texts For PUBLICS by Ian Whittlesea was the third commission for PUBLICS' street level windows in Vallila. The texts (Stand still. Be quiet.; Close your eyes. Breath in.; Open your eyes.; Breath out.; Slowly in. Slowly out.) functioned as both instruction and permission to the passerby. The texts had a simplicity of suggestion whilst holding an implicit critique of the inattention of the everyday. They could also be read as a description of the new normal, when to breath and its control had become central to all our lives.

Ian Whittlesea is an artist and teacher with Total Art School; a flexible education platform for artists and designers who want to invigorate their practice with a period of challenging experimentation.

PUBLICS TALKS

Artist Yane Calovski gave a public talk *The Unpublicness of Public Archives* (3/5/2020) in relation to the exhibition Personal Object at Kunstahalle Kohta. The project undertook to re-archive the voluminous technical and photographic documentation of the master plan for Skopje by Japanese architect Kenzo Tange, administered by a special UN fund from 1963 until 1967, as well as the fire that destroyed Skopje's former Institute for Town Planning and Architecture in April 2017.

For his book *Salt in the Wound. Encountering Contemporary Artists across Europe* (2019) Jurriaan Benschop traveled through Europe to meet with artists of diverse backgrounds and talk about their artistic roots. In his presentation at PUBLICS (3/5/2020) Benschop discussed the work of some of the artists featured in the book, among them Miroslaw Balka. The event was supported by Garret Publications.

In *EX LIBRIS* talk (29/10/2020) Francesca and Stuart Bertolotti-Bailey retraced The Serving Library's ten-year history, outlined its current activities and launched the new issue of its house journal *The Serving Library Annual*, which doubles as a catalogue of their collection of unusually telling objects. The event was supported by the Academy of Fine Arts where Francesca Bertolotti-Bailey was Resident Fellow.

PUBLICS EVENTS

In January New York based sculptor, performer, and writer Gordon Hall gave a reading and a performance to celebrate the launch of their new book *OVER-BELIEFS: Collected Writing 2011-2018*. The event was accompanied with three identical sculptures also simultaneously exhibited at Shimmer's *Higher! Higher! Lower, Lower. Louder! Louder! Softer, Softer* exhibition. The event marked the beginning of Publics Parahosting of Shimmer that took place during the year 2020 and was further reflected in *Instituutiokritiikki* 3/2020, vol. 79 at Mustekala online journal.

READ THE ARTICLE:

How Institutions Think – Thinking like a Parahost [here](#)

In March Cuban artist Adrian Melis was invited to give a talk alongside the screening of *Night Watch* (2005), *The making of forty rectangular pieces for a floor construction* (2008), *Sur-*

plus Production Line (2015), and *Engagement Rate Formula* (2019) but the event was the first one cancelled due Covid-19. The event was coordinated in collaboration with Pori Art Museum where a solo show by Melis was scheduled to open. At the end PUBLICS supported a publication *The Paradox of Labour* contextualising Meli's practice, produced by Pori Art Museum and Adn Gallery (Spain) and set to be released in 2021.

The dedicated film programme originally shown at *Today Is Our Tomorrow* in the Autumn of 2019 was re-shown online at the very beginning of the pandemic in April. The programme included works from Honkasalo-Niemi-Virtanen (6/4), Jonathas de Andrade (7/4), Camille Auer (8/4), Jaakko Pallasvuo & MSL (9/4), Althea Thauberger (10/4), Núria Güell (11/4), Sepideh Rahaa (12/4), Karrabing Film Collective (13/4), Basim Magdy (14/4), Anni Puolakka (15/4), Orphan Drift & Plastique Fantastique (16/4) and Chris Kraus (17/4). Each film was available for 24 hours and shown at PUBLICS' website.



Althea Thauberger: *Preuzmimo Benčić* (film still), *Today Is Our Tomorrow* Online Film Screening

In September in collaboration with Live Art and Performance Studies (LAPS) MA programme in Uniarts Helsinki and Another Academy PUBLICS hosted two events in relation to the 8th International Live Art and Performance festival Lapsody – *Paramatter: A workshop by The Already Not-Yet – Becoming Collective* with Ima Iduozee, Iida Nissinen, Joy Mariama Smith, Vishnu Vardhani, Jeanne van Heeswijk (18/9) followed by a provocation delivered by Joy Mariama Smith and Jeanne van Heeswijk for Another Academy – *Before and After the Educational Turn* (19/9) looking into experiences and strategies to assess possible forms of resistance to commodified forms of contemporary education. Other participants included Gavin Butt (University of Northumbria), Łukasz Jastrubczak (The Art Academy of Szczecin, Poland), Gudskul (Jakarta), Anders Carlsson & Aune Kallinen (Uniarts, Helsinki) and LAPSODY (LAPS MA students). The event took place at PUBLICS and via Zoom.



The Already Not-Yet – Becoming Collective: Ima Iduozee, Vishnu Vardhani & Iida Nissinen, Photo: Visa Knuuttila

In October *Dynamic Workshop* by Total Art School was held for LAPS MA students. Teachers David Blamey, Elis Searson, Matthew Cornford and Sarah Jones held online workshops (19/10 and 22/10) exploring critical undercurrents at play in the master scholar relationships. The workshop was hosted in a collaboration with Another Academy, Uniarts Helsinki. Originally Total Art School had been invited for a 5-day teaching residency where teachers would have concentrated on an area of 'wellbeing' culture. PUBLICS continues to facilitate Total Art School in 2021.

PUBLICS PARAHOSTING

Curators Matteo Lucchetti and Judith Wielander presented (25/2) the *Visible* project in conversation with curator Aura Seikkula. *Visible* calls to action curators, institutions, thinkers and citizens to describe, highlight and create a dialogical space among art projects that expand beyond the ordinary spaces for art while entering directly into the public domain, re-defining its various representations and interpretations. The presentation was co-hosted in collaboration with Arts Promotion Centre Finland (Taike).

In their lecture (27/2) *Why Exhibit At All? / Some Futures* Nora Sternfield (Documenta Professor at the School of Art and Design Kassel) together with Adrian Heathfield (Professor of Performance and Visual Culture at the University of Roehampton, London) discussed recent curatorial practices and political dilemmas of the contemporary art museum. The lecture was part of the *Futures* lecture series organized by the master's degree programmes in Choreography, Dramaturgy, and the Live Art and Performance Studies in collaboration with the Centre for Joint Studies at Uniarts Helsinki's Theatre Academy.

In June PUBLICS collaborated with the second edition of DEMO - Deptford Moving Image Festival: *Contagion* held online. With PUBLICS support, the festival screened (20–24/6) Jenna Sutela's *Holobiont*, which considers the idea of embodied cognition on a planetary scale, featuring a zoom from outer space to inside the gut.

For the release (25/9) of artist' book, *The Itching Triangle*, Vidha Saumya and Jari Kallio joined varialambo for a collaborative music performance. *The Itching Triangle* book by Varia Sjöström and Hatz Lambo included monotypes, photos and poems in Hindi, Finnish, English and German. Their work focused on trauma based symptoms, mind decolonizing methods and absurd comedy. The event was limited to 25 guests.

Cross border transcultural collective Third Space celebrated its 6th anniversary by releasing *Six Years in the Third Space*; an online publication around the complex theme of collaboration (30/10). The publication was commissioned by Third Space reflecting on the past, the present, and the future of artistic projects/collectives such as itself. The event at PUBLICS included an online conversation about the publication, introductions with guests present at the events and included a sound performance by Ana Gutieszca.

OUT OF THE LIBRARY

Throughout 2020 PUBLICS Library remained mainly closed for visitors, which resulted in *OUT OF THE LIBRARY*: a curated bookshelf concentrating into some of the Library contents, and focusing upon some key topics, and thematics.

OUT OF THE LIBRARY began in January when Shimmer brought together a carefully considered collection of books related to the practice of artist Gordon Hall. Their selection connected art, the body and queer theory, to the legacies of feminism, dance, choreography, and minimalism amongst other subjects.

In June PUBLICS collectively curated a selection of 40 books highlighting the importance of Black Studies, black thinkers, representational histories, post-, and de-colonial theories from the last thirty years or so. It brought attention to some of contemporary arts vexed relationships with race, activism, identity politics, and intersectionality including writers, artists and curators PUBLICS has collaborated with such as Adelaide Bannerman, Tony Cokes, the Otolith Group, Bhavisha Panchia, Elizabeth A. Povinelli, Vivian Zihlerl and others.

In September, Paul O'Neill curated a selection for Another Academy – *Before and After the Educational Turn* event focusing on education. *OUT OF THE LIBRARY*: Education included some of the many books Paul has co-written and edited such as *Curating and the Educational Turn* and *Curating Research*, books connecting to PUBLICS program as well as many other essential reads.

In October artists Per Hüttner and Vidha Saumya were invited to each select five books relating to the theme of 'power' on the occasion of the exhibition and festival 2084 in Cable Factory, Helsinki. The exhibition initiated by Catalysti Association of Transcultural Artists speculated on the role power will play in the future. The selection of books was available at PUBLICS Library during the exhibition.

The Publishing Reader by Tuukka Kaila made available a selection of bookworks, theory and critical thinking about and around the subject of artist's publishing. Building on the diversity of the PUBLICS research library, the selection traced the subtle shifts in focus away from the publication and towards the practice of publishing – from the object to the context. This selection coincided with *EX LIBRIS* talk by Francesca and Stuart Bertolotti-Bailey and the launch of The Serving Library Annual in late October.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

OPEN UP TRANSNATIONAL NETWORK

In 2020 Open Up, a four year cultural project (2020-2023) co-funded by the Creative Europe programme, officially launched in February when the partners (Pierides Foundation, PUBLICS, Université de Picardie Jules Verne, University of Thessaly, Valand Academy, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and New Hand Lab) had a kick-off meeting at NiMAC, in Nicosia, Cyprus. The two-day meeting gave rise to fruitful discussions about the first steps of the project, its broader mission, ideas about future happenings, as well as detailed descriptions of the laboratories and festivals each partner will hold.

In April due to the Covid-19 outbreak the project was tracing new paths for creative dialogue and interconnection amongst different societies and groups of people across the European Union, as well as between the partners. The first online Zoom meeting was held in May, in order to discuss the next steps of the project and any adjustments that needed to take place for the future activities. From May to July 2020, the 7 partners worked on their National Reports, investigating the needs and expectations of artists in their local and regional contexts in order to shape the Open Up laboratories and the various actions of the project according to the needs of the participants.

PUBLICS hired a curator and Doctoral candidate Ksenia Kaverina to execute the research. The Helsinki-based interviewees were selected among active members of NGOs and artist associations in Finland, working with underrepresented or foreign-born creative professionals (Globe Art Point, Catalysti, Museum of Impossible Forms, Ruskeat Tytöt and Fem-R) and they were Vishnu Vardhani, Sepideh Rahaa, Roxana Crisologo, Paola Livorsi and Sophia Wekesa.

In October Open Up partners came together online to discuss open calls and selection criteria for the participants of the upcoming Laboratories in 2021. Due Covid-19, alternative plans were discussed based on the national situations and local health and safety regulations.

READ THE REPORT:

Open Up Consolidated [here](#)

FUTURE FUTURES

In collaboration with Index Foundation (Stockholm) and PRAKSIS (Oslo), PUBLICS share approaches to working with young people, democratic processes and new publics. The aim of the *Future Futures* network has been to test new formats, learn from each other and define methods for including and emboldening young people in conversations about art, criticality and language. The three institutions pursue differing structures, yet share goals and democratic values:

PRAKSIS focuses on programs that develop creative practice, Index as an exhibition center and PUBLICS is a meeting space based on the idea of the library.

Conceptual and practical artistic work, presentation of artistic practices and distribution of ideas are the core engagements of the three initiating members of the network. We consider the diversity of our roles vital as part of a democratic ecosystem including publics. By observing these three structures we can more fully understand the artistic chain of conceptual production, presentation and distribution of content. *Future Futures* network started with three different situations to be shared and transformed into a dialogue. The institutions share a desire for transparency, experimentation and definition of our local, national and Nordic realities.

Futures Futures meeting took place in Oslo in February and we have continued to meet and advance the project online and developed further funding applications together. The preliminary plan for 2020 to organise a gathering of both Index and PRAKSIS in Helsinki together with their already established teenage advisory boards (ITAB and PTAB) was postponed until a later date. For PUBLICS this was a way to present the model to the local scene and a starting point to further initiate its own youth advisory board, which will gather momentum in 2021. This new strand however requires outreach and engagement, which hasn't been possible to execute during 2020.

TODAY IS OUR TOMORROW

For 2020, the annual transdisciplinary festival *Today Is Our Tomorrow* was developed this year as a more modest and dispersed approach, where a number of events and performances would have been taking place at PUBLICS and throughout the year. The partners for 2020 were three Baltic organisations: The Latvian Centre for Contemporary Art (LCCA), Narva Art Residency and NAC of Vilnius Academy of Arts. Together we co-commissioned three new works with artists Agnė Jokšė, Sandra Kosorotova, Anni Puolakka and Marta Trektere, each of them working with cohabitational practices, and ways of living and being together, giving shape and form to a more cooperative world.

The small-scale festival, scheduled for late Fall 2020 was reorganised because of artists constant shifts and changes with schedules, conditions of production and increasingly limited travel possibilities so the festival was postponed in early 2021. Narva Art Residency and Nida Art Colony also provided additional resources for two production residencies with Jokšė and Kosorotova, whereas LCCA additionally supported new productions by Puolakka and Trektere.

SHAPE

Initiated by PUBLICS and Kunsthalle Kohta in 2020, SHAPE is a new initiative, and a way of supporting small to medium-sized organizations locally and connecting them to each other and to their audiences. SHAPE platform is a website resource for Helsinki's contemporary art landscape, a mapping of art spaces and public events across the city. SHAPE is a useful tool for local residents and visitors to navigate the diversity of Helsinki art scenes and to find out what's happening, where and when. SHAPE highlights current public events, spaces, times and locations. Users and visitors can browse upcoming activities as well as find out more about their initiating organisations. SHAPE is organized around eight main categories of activity: Books, Events, Exhibitions, Festivals, Initiatives, Museums, Supports, and Workspaces:

EVENTS – Gathers spaces currently organizing and hosting a variety of discursive events and talks related to contemporary art.

EXHIBITIONS – Lists spaces focused on the display and presentation of exhibitions of contemporary art.

FESTIVALS – Highlights established art-related, public, and perennial events happening during a limited period of time.

INITIATIVES – Collects organizations initiating and hosting a range of art-related events without a dedicated physical space.

MUSEUMS – Shows large-scale institutions presenting contemporary art, generally with an entrance fee.

PUBLICATIONS – Combines libraries, independent publishers, editorial initiatives, art bookstores, virtual and physical spaces.

SUPPORTS – Brings together agencies and support structures providing information, events and funding for Finnish and non-Finnish speaking cultural workers.

WORKSPACES – Presents spaces focusing on making, working, producing such as studios or workspaces for artists, fabricators and makers.

In 2020 PUBLICS and Kohta funded the development of SHAPE. The research was executed by Marjolein van der Loo, the design and visual identity by Studio Julia and programming and code by Neal Fletcher. SHAPE will be launched in 2021 coinciding with the opening of the first edition of Helsinki Biennial.



The Itching Triangle event for limited audience in September. Photo: Aman Askarizad

PARTNERSHIPS

Aalto University, Academy of Fine Arts, Academy of Moving People and Images, Adn Gallery, Another Academy, Arts Promotion Centre Finland, Catalysti, DEMO Moving Image, Fem-R, Frame Contemporary Art Finland, Garret Publications, Globe Art Point, Index Foundation, Kohta Kunsthalle, Latitudes, Latvian Centre for Contemporary Art, Live Art and Performance Studies (LAPS), Museum of Impossible Forms, Narva Art Residency, NAC of Vilnius Academy of Arts, New Hand Lab, Pierides Foundation, Pori Art Museum, PRAKSIS, Ruskeat Tytöt, Shimmer, Studio Julia, TAXISPALAIS Kunsthalle Tirol, Third Space, Total Art School, University of the Arts Helsinki, Université de Picardie Jules Verne, University of Thessaly, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Valand Academy.

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

2020 saw PUBLICS' stabilisation of its financial circumstances for 2020-23. Having consolidated its core costs through a focus on sustained development and institutional and partnership building. In 2020 PUBLICS entered the last year of full support of Kone Foundation, which then in the beginning of 2021 marks the first year of matched funding up to the amount of €150 000. PUBLICS has been continuing with EU Cooperation Project Grant for a long-term project called Open Up developed in partnership with eight institutions across Europe.

2020's emphasis on strategic development of more long-term sustainability was maintained throughout, and expanding a more robust network of partnerships regionally and internationally. In 2020 PUBLICS also focused on curatorial research for its annual festival *Today Is Our Tomorrow*. In 2020, additionally PUBLICS was kindly supported by the City of Helsinki and Arts Promotion Centre Finland. *Today Is Our Tomorrow* collaboration was co-funded by The Baltic Culture Fund, Future Futures network by Nordic Culture Point and *ACROSS THE WAY WITH...* with Shimmer by The Finnish Cultural and Academic Institutes' Together Alone project.

ADMINISTRATION

The supporting organisation behind PUBLICS is Checkpoint Helsingin Tukiyhdistys ry, whose board develops and approves the mission and vision, monitors the strategy, as well as oversees and supports the programming policy. In 2020 the board members of the association were Bassam El Baroni, Taru Elfving (chair), Satu Herrala, Ki Nurmenniemi (vice chair), Axel Strachnoy, Pilvi Takala, and Noora Geagea and Kaija Kaitavuori were deputy members. In 2020 the board met 5 times. The Spring meeting was held on 15/6/2020 and the Annual General meeting on 16/12/2020, both via Zoom. PUBLICS had two full-time employees, artistic director Paul O'Neill (1/1-31/12/2020) and program manager Eliisa Suvanto (1/1-31/12/2020). The organisation employed one intern, Marjolein van der Loo (4/2-3/5/2020), an internship through Aalto University. Van der Loo was then hired as an assistant curator for 11 weeks as she continued the development of SHAPE. Throughout the year PUBLICS employed people to work for projects and commissions, including the ones that were rescheduled or cancelled.

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