



Eksemplar, Mattias Härenstam



Marthe Ramm Fortun's photographs are located in display cabinets among the museum exhibitions.
Front page: *Betraktere*, Mattias Härenstam.

Visiting adress: Muséplass 3, 5007 Bergen

Artists: Mattias Härenstam, Marthe Ramm Fortun

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Project Manager KORO: Janicke Heggem Rudi Iversen

Curator: Marit Paasche

Artistic directors: Henrik von Achen, Siri Meyer, Paul Amble, Geir Barton Torsæter.

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ART AT THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM



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Time, memory, and the relationship between the museum and its visitors are central to the *Minerva's Voice* art project at the University Museum of Bergen.

Minerva, the Roman goddess of wisdom, has gazed across Bergen from above the main entrance to the University Museum ever since the building was completed in 1865. Minerva's sacred animal was an owl and today the University of Bergen's logo has an owl at its centre. Artists Marthe Ramm Fortun and Mattias Härenstam have created works in response to the heritage-protected building and the historical exhibitions within its walls.

– Central themes of the art project have been the Museum's function as a guardian or vessel of time, and the encounter between its unique architecture and the general public. *Memory* and *knowledge* are both important keywords. In a metaphorical sense, we have taken Minerva down from her elevated position on the façade and brought her with us into the building to explore the Museum as a place for organizing and displaying knowledge, explains the project's curator, Marit Paasche.

Härenstam has made two large wooden sculptures. His sculpture *Specimen* retains the overall shape of the tree trunk from which it was made, although most of the wood has been meticulously removed. The resulting void creates a tactile tension between presence and absence, inside and outside. The sculpture radiates something undefinable, a sensation that resists classification. *The Observers* consists of four forms carved from oak and ash. A hand-blown glass sphere rests at the bottom of each form refracting the light. The sculptures pass through two holes in the floor, which the Museum refers to as *knowledge* holes, taking one's thoughts to the starting point for all scientific knowledge: how we proceed from hypotheses to knowledge, and who defines what.

The works by Ramm Fortun juxtapose history against our own times. *We shall not make textbooks* consists of two photographic series and performance. The first photographic series consists of 10 photographs, which are installed in glass cabinets among the Museum's own displays on Floor 2, which is subject to a heritage-protection order. The series constitutes a low-key disruption that interacts with Härenstam's investigation of the relationship between the observer and the object under observation.

In addition, Ramm Fortun has committed to holding one performance at the Museum every year for 10 years, from 2019 to 2028. By returning to the Museum on a regular basis,



Marthe Ramm Fortun has installed her series *We are not writing textbooks* on the museum's second floor.

Mattias Härenstam's two sculptures are located in two separate rooms on the ground floor.

the artist will have the opportunity to investigate changes in the Museum, its visitors and herself over the coming decade. Each performance will be accompanied by a photographic record and a text that will be given to the Museum after the performance. These works will gradually form a new photographic series that will fill the empty frames at the entrance to the tower room on Floor 3.

All the photographs for this project were taken by Kristine Jakobsen.

