

Towards a Pedagogy of the Utopian Image

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DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

by due permission of the Malmö Faculty of Fine
and Performing Arts, Lund University, Sweden.

To be defended at Kungl. Konsthögskolan / Royal Institute of Art

2021-11-10 at 14.00

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This dissertation has been carried out and supervised within the graduate programme in Visual Arts at the Royal Institute of Art. The dissertation is presented at Lund University in the framework of the cooperation agreement between the Malmö Faculty of Fine and Performing Arts, Lund University, and the Royal Institute of Art regarding doctoral education in the subject Visual Arts. The PhD education has been funded through a collaboration between the Royal Institute of Art and Stockholm University of the Arts.

Organization LUND UNIVERSITY		Document name DOCTORAL DISSERTATION	
Author Emanuel Almborg		Date of issue November 10, 2021	
		Sponsoring organization	
Title Towards a Pedagogy of the Utopian Image			
<p>Abstract</p> <p>This practice-based PhD project investigates the conditions for a <i>pedagogy of the utopian image</i> in contemporary art and film. It starts from the premise that there is a need for new political and social visions and scenarios. The project asks what role art and artist film, both as a medium and as a social activity, can play in experimenting with and sketching such visions and scenarios – a process described as a pedagogy of the “utopian image”. Rather than starting from established concepts in contemporary art theory and practice, this project seeks out fertile notions and methodologies from theoretical traditions in Marxist history that are lesser known in the field of art and artistic research, in order to reassess assumptions and dichotomies around thinking and feeling, mind and body, the social and the individual. By doing so, it seeks to find new ways of understanding and relating the political and psychological in artist film, pedagogy and drama. The project draws on a wide range of sources, from psychologist Lev Vygotsky, Soviet philosopher Evald Ilyenkov and theatre director Konstantin Stanislavski to revolutionary psychiatrist Frantz Fanon and science fiction writer Octavia Butler.</p> <p>The PhD submission consists of the three films, <i>Talking Hands/Говорящие руки</i>, 2016, <i>The Nth Degree</i>, 2018, and <i>Acorn</i>, 2021, along with the exhibition <i>Bildningar</i> at Mint in Stockholm, which ran from 2 to 25 September 2021. Links to these films and documentation of the exhibition are included in the PDF submission, which also includes a written component with theoretical considerations and reflections on method.</p>			
Key words Art, Film, Pedagogy, Drama, Psychology, Evald Ilyenkov, Lev Vygotsky, Octavia Butler, Konstantin Stanislavski, Karl Marx			
Classification system and/or index terms (if any)			
Supplementary bibliographical information		Language English	
ISSN and key title		ISBN 978-91-985456-7-8	
Recipient's notes	Number of pages 139		Price
	Security classification		

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Date 2021-10-08