



The person behind the criminal

Ivalo Frank & Psychiatry and social service in Central Denmark Region, Forensic Psychiatric Unit

What kind of person can kill another? What drives a person to murder? These are some of the existential questions that the artist Ivalo Frank seeks to answer in connection with the world's only biennial that brings together the art and business communities. Entering into interplay with the Forensic Psychiatric Unit R3, Risskov Ivalo Frank creates a work based on moving, honest, and critical interviews with six mentally ill patients who live their lives in a closed ward.

The results of this collaboration can be viewed at HEART – Herning Museum of Contemporary Art from 15 September 2012 until 6 January 2013, side by side with art by the ten other participants in the Socle du Monde biennial INVOLVER.

With an open heart and mind

Ivalo Frank possesses an air of openness and accessibility that the patients at the Forensic Psychiatric Unit R3 immediately sense when she enters the room. Her shields are lowered, and she passes no judgment on the people she meets at the ward – despite the brutality of the acts they have committed. During her stay at the ward Ivalo Frank developed a close relationship with six of the patients there, prompting them to offer up moving stories about mistreatment, abandonment, and boundless grief.

Through her art project, Ivalo Frank seeks to disprove or add greater nuance to some of the beliefs habitually held about violent criminals. She focuses on the similarities, not the differences, between ordinary people and the mentally ill patients who are serving sentences at a psychiatric ward.

"They are intelligent, sweet, ordinary people like you and me. Almost. Things have just gone wrong for them. All wrong," she relates, adding that "I wished to meet them as people rather than as the monsters conjured up by media descriptions of violent criminals. The objective of my work is to create new insights and to help give the patients the platform they deserve; an opportunity for being heard."

The right to speak

Forensic Psychiatric Unit R3 in Risskov is home to around 18 mentally ill Greenlandic people who have been sentenced to psychiatric care by a court of law. Many of the patients/inmates have committed acts of grievous bodily harm resulting in death, and most

battle addictions and personality disorders. The ward's participation in the Socle du Monde biennial is part of the campaign "ONE OF US" ("EN AF OS" in Danish), which works to remove some of the stigma associated with the mentally ill.

"I will not pass judgment on what sort of life these people should live. We take part in the Socle du Monde biennial in order to give the patients an opportunity for airing their stories to the world," says Georg Gouliaev, doctor at the Psychiatric Ward.

On 15 September the general public can see Ivalo Frank's work, which consists of a film accompanied by 12 still images and a Skype connection that allows visitors to communicate directly with Unit R3 and Ivalo Frank. She calls the Skype installation *Open HEART - "for that is how I was received at Unit R3"*, she concludes.

To set up interviews with the patients, the staff and Ivalo Frank, please contact communicator Line Glavind at lg@heartmus.dk or on (+45) 96281705. (Ivalo Frank is a resident of Berlin. Contact her at contact@ivalofrank.com or on + 49 17681101938.)

The private view will take place on Friday 14 September at 17.00 at HEART.

Selected media are invited. Please sign up via lg@heartmus.dk or tel. (+45) 96281705

Participants can look forward to an opening night that is all about involvement. The event will involve music, speeches, live performances, a delicious buffet, a great atmosphere, and – very crucially – the opportunity to interview all the parties involved.

Adrian Hughes from the Danish National Broadcasting Cooperation will officially open the party.

Socle du Monde biennalen INVOLVER

One word expresses the essence of HEART's sixth Socle du Monde biennial: INVOLVER is an assertion, an appeal, and a call to action that insistently invites enterprises, artists, and audiences to collaborate on the creation and appreciation of art. INVOLVER is launched on 15 September 2012, filling the exhibition rooms at HEART with works created by approximately 11 artists and enterprises, and this year they place special emphasis on involving audiences. The world's only biennial to unite the realms of art and business is sure to open with a bang.

The Biennial features works by the following partners:

Marco Evaristti & pej gruppen - SCANDINAVIAN TREND INSTITUTE
Rune Fjord & Psychiatry and social service in Central Denmark
Region, Psychiatric Out Patient Unit, West & ONE OF US
John Kørner & ege
Norma Jeane & A Hereford Beefstouw
Ingvar Cronhammar & c.c. contractor
Bo Christian Larsson & Montana Møbler A/S
Bjørn Nørgaard & Midtjydske Betonvare og Elementfabrik - MBE
Ivalo Frank & Psychiatry and social service in Central Denmark
Region, Forensic Psychiatric Unit & ONE OF US
Peter Callesen & VIA University College, TEKO Design + Business
Woloo & The Municipality of Ikast-Brandø
Parfyme & Light Partner

Accreditation:

Photos: Steen Gyldendal

HEART's opening hours:

Tuesdays – Sundays 10-17

Mondays closed

Current exhibitions at HEART:

Faith, Hope, and Love – Jacob Holdt's America

10.02.12 – 26.08.12

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