

Press release

Performance art group takes over the leadership of
an upper secondary school

Sisters Academy

HF & VUC in FYN, FLOW will transform into a parallel performance-universe while exploring new modes of more sensuous knowledge production. It is an educational experiment led by the performance art group Sisters Hope.

Place: HF & VUC, FLOW in Odense February 24th to March 7th. The school is open from Monday-Tuesday 7.30 AM - 5.00 PM.

Open house: February 28th 7.30 AM to 4.00 PM.

For more than 20 teachers and 175 students the only thing that will stay familiar in these two weeks is the school schedule. The space has been transformed and they will be surrounded by stuffed animals, soft music, a scent of old cherry wine and twelve tableaux of performers.

The teacher staff at FLOW has been collaborating with the performance *Sisters Hope* over the course of a year to investigate how they can continue and carry out their education in their respective subject fields from Math to Rhetoric, but doing so in a new way that evoke and inspire the sensuous experience and recognition of the world which is at the core of the aesthetic dimension. The transformation of the school into a performative world lead by the two 'unheimliche' twin sisters of *Sisters Hope* is to inspire and activate this mind-set. Head of Department at HF, Gitte Bruus Albrechtsen, elaborates:

"In a time where education reforms for primary schools, high schools and universities are on the agenda we need to figure out how we can work and think in new ways. This is why we decided to engage in this radical project that turns our everyday world perspective upside down."

We have changed the location of all our activities for the two weeks that the performance group will be in charge at the school. We will now carry out our teaching in the abandoned factory buildings on Ruggårdsvej where a different universe with different rules is unfolding. In this universe the students are guided to wear school uniforms and the teachers as well have a special dress-code. The students homemade lunch must be brought to the school wrapped in paper and cell phones must be switched off. These challenges are put up to inspire the exploration of new ways of learning that may stimulate a more sensuous and poetic recognition of the world. Throughout the process knowledge and objects will be collected in an archive. At *Sisters Academy* 'The Archive' is also the source that kept the new teachers alive during the crisis. The twelve performers that will also be present during the two weeks will act as tableaux of inspiration to the educational development that is taking place in the classrooms. The teachers may choose to move their classes to these tableaux or the performers can choose to intervene the classes - following one simple rule - only if the door to the classroom is open is the intervention is accepted. In this new framework the teachers may choose to work on

three different levels: content, method and teaching role. The overall idea is to anchor the experience at the school, which is also the reason to work on 'teachers-level'. The two founders of *Sisters Hope*, Anna Lawaetz and Gry Worre Hallberg explains:

"The current crisis rhetoric was one of our initial inspirations. To us, as artists and researchers, it is all about exploring what kind of society we can create in the future. And in this aspect the educational system, where our minds to a large degree are being shaped, is central. In this full-scale experiment we create a parallel world based on art and the aesthetic experience and mode of being as the primary system. This means that the political and economic system has less impact in this world. We are exploring what an educational system would look like if the sensuous and aesthetic were the center of all action and interaction. The school that carry out these explorations we name Sisters Academy."

Sisters Academy is open to the public the 28th February from 7.30 AM - 4.00 PM. For special agreements between 24th February and 7th March please contact Gry Worre Halleberg, +45 2624 7734.

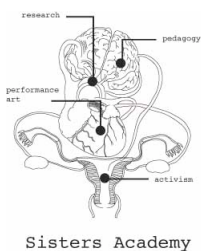
The project is supported by The Danish Arts Councils.

For more information and press photos please visit sistersacademy.dk/gallery or contact PR manager at HF & VUC, FYN, FLOW Malene Harboe by mail mhm@vucfyn.dk or Sisters Hope by mail sistershope@sistershope.dk and by phone +45 2624 7734.

For more information about HF & VUC, FYN, FLOW please visit:
<http://www.flow1748.dk/flow/FLOW.html>

Kind regards,

HF & VUC, FYN, FLOW and Sisters Hope



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