Nina Schejtoft Blom

NOT A SWEDISH MYSTERY

ART

ART

Nina Sleijkoblom

Nina Slejko Blom
Not a Swedish Mystery, a trilogy
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Not a Swedish Mystery: ART

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https://ninaslejko.com/zines.html

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Slejko Blom, Nina
Not a Swedish Mystery: ART

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Edited, designed by NSB
Back cover text: ChatGPT, October 10, 2024

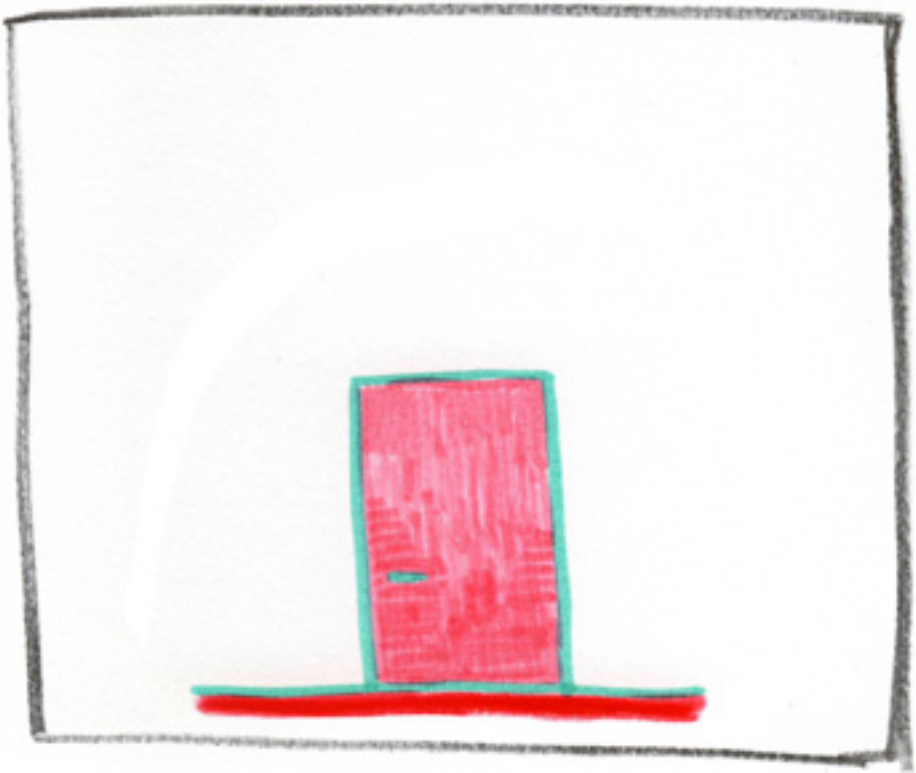
CAC 2025

This book is an extraordinary exploration of the personal, political, and poetic. With over 200 pages of images and texts, it offers a deeply intimate yet wide-ranging meditation on art, weaving together the artist's experiences across two distinct cultural landscapes—her native Slovenia and her adopted home of Sweden.

The anthology of booklets, collected over years, captures the subtleties of contemporary life, including the clash of past and present, rural and urban, personal and communal. Through works like Thrive & Consolidate your Career (2020) and The Culture Minister's Favorites (2022), Slejko Blom explores the everyday with sharp humor and poignant vulnerability, while titles like We're prettier than they are and we're infinitely giddier (2022) and Two Women II (2024) probe identity and human relationships in thought-provoking ways. Each piece is a stand-alone reflection, yet they form an interwoven narrative that challenges and invites the reader into a world both familiar and alien.

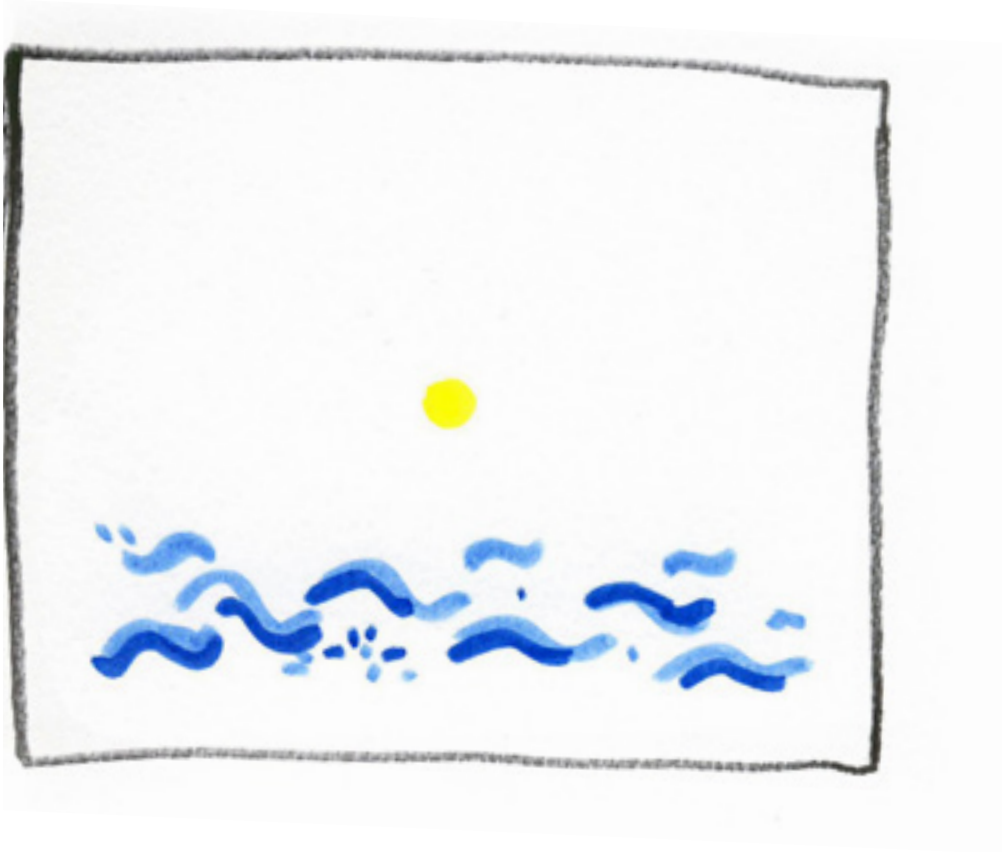
My sister has a house ...

...



i have a lease for an apartment,

my sister has a garden,



i have the whole ocean,

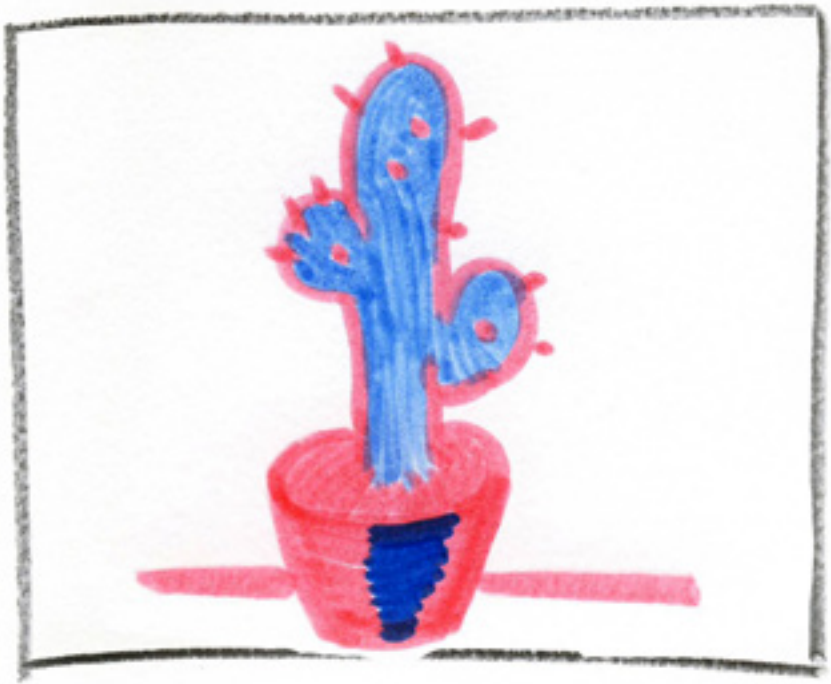
my sister has a patio,

i have wishful thinking,

my sister has a car,

i have a travel-as-much-as-you-want for two months
bus-train card every summer,

my sister has a cat,



i have a cactus,

my sister has bike,

i have a bike!

...

...

...

...

my sister has a job,

i have a job!

my sister has a salary,

I have a computer to write applications with,

my sister has vacations and sick-leave,

I have germ-o-phobia,

my sister has a little boy,

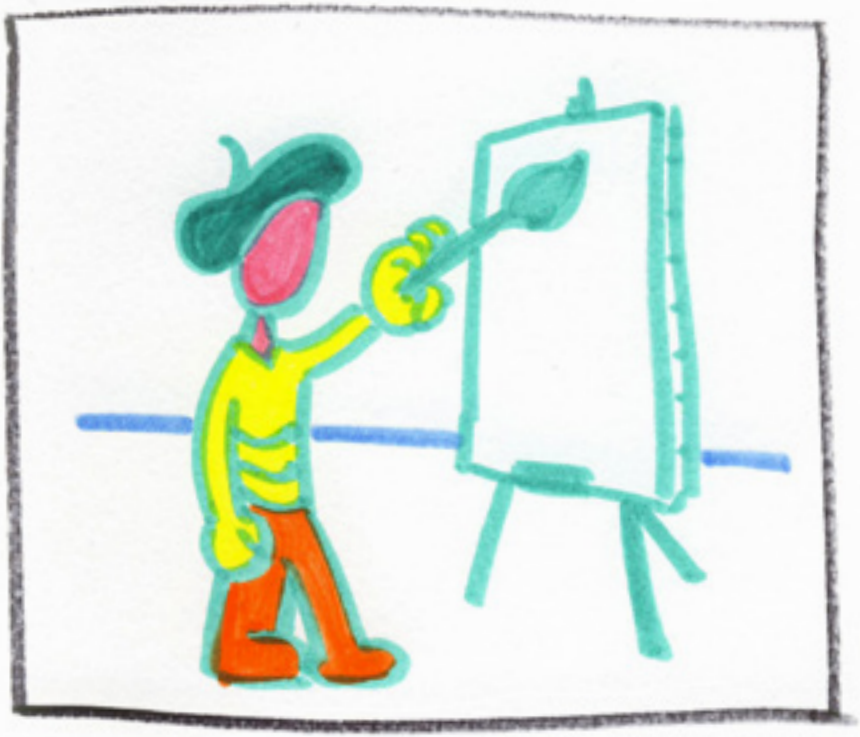
i have a little nothing,

my sister has another little boy,

i have another little nothing,

my sister has a third little boy ...

...



i have a talent.

2017

We're prettier than they are

Nina Slejko Blom 2022

but they're infinitely wealthier.

They're willing to risk loss in order to make money,

We're unwillingly losing money in order to make art.

They're (proud) entrepreneurs (by choice),

We're (bitter) entrepreneurs (under constraint).

They earn 30 times more than an average person and are enough detached from reality to write that down to their hard work,

We're happy if it ever happens that we get paid.

They're under the impression that their efforts are worthier than ours —

We are not.

They wonder why break the law to get all they can if they can get it all legally,

We're starting to wonder why not break the law (to even the stakes a little).

They're self-invested narcissists bathed in privilege,

We're socially awkward empaths smelling of socialism.

They're compulsorily self-interested,
we're curious and considerate.
They're well respected,
we're pitied at best.
(They're amazing at PR, we are terrible at it.)

But —

In this disenchanted world of
production and consumption they
do spiritual exercises,
yoga, home baking.

...

While we'd rather hear a symphony than eat
and don't quite get that urge to bake or take deep
breaths—

and we're infinitely giddier.

Nina Sejko Blom 2022

3

COLLABORATIONS

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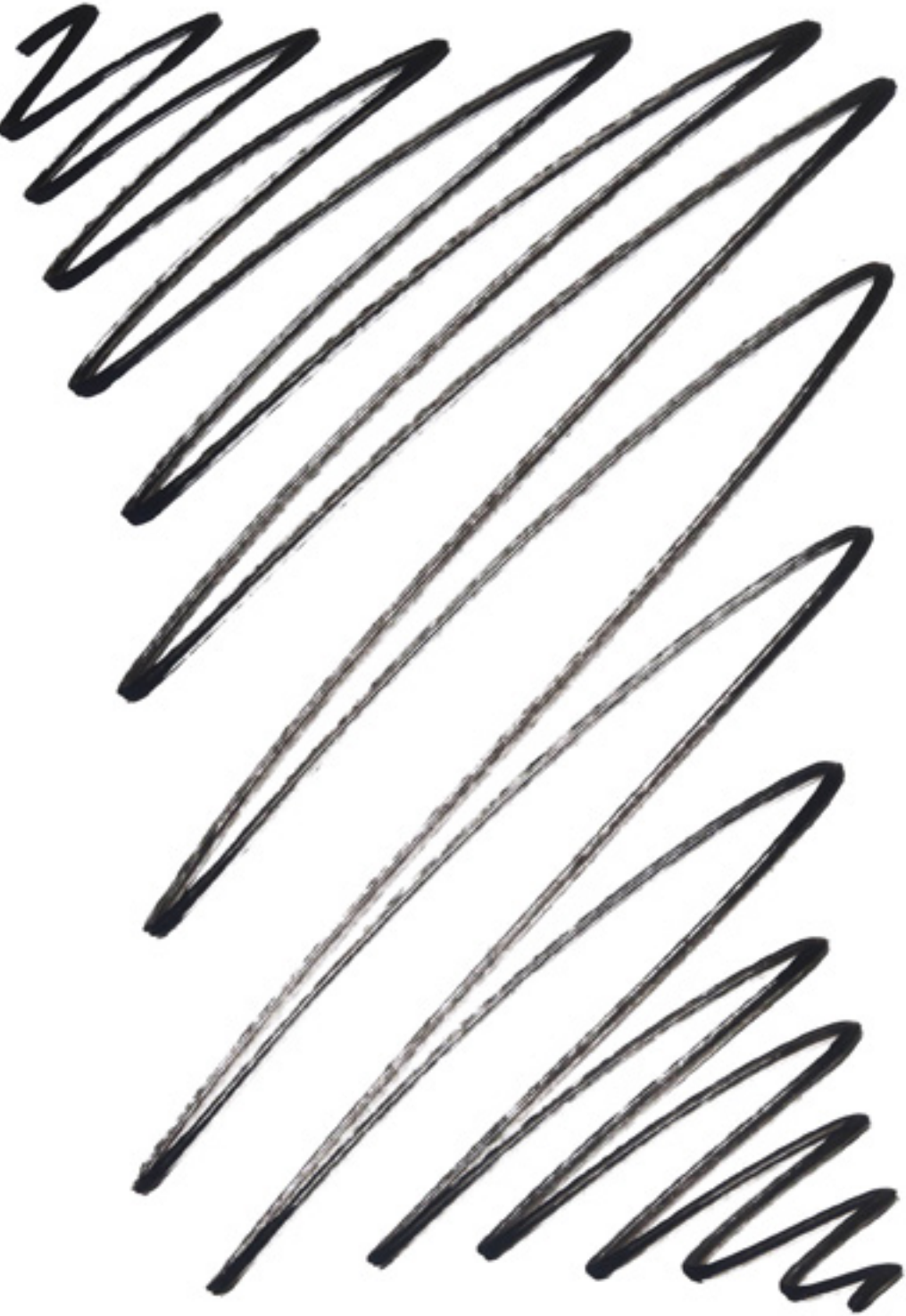


R. I. P.
COLLABORATIONS

WORK

DON'T

WORK

2020

4

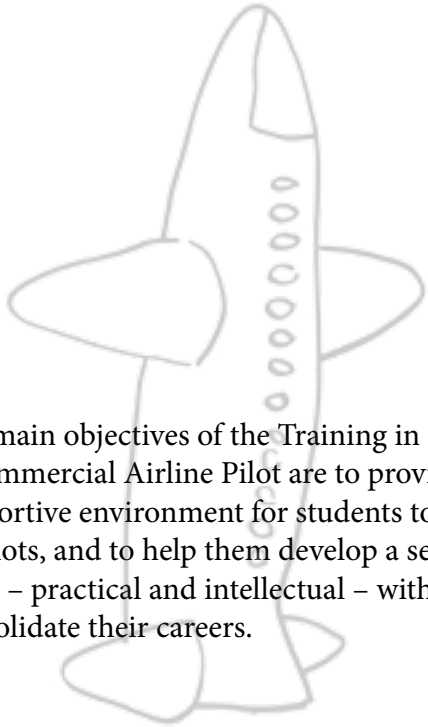
Thrive

&

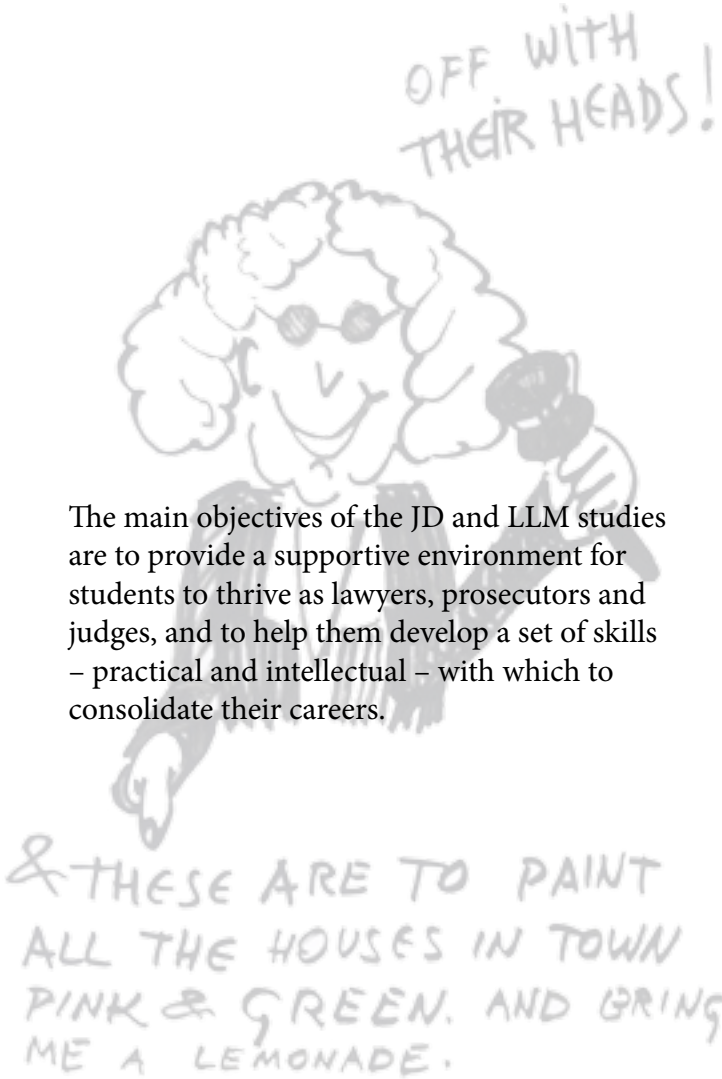
Consolidate your Career

The main objectives of the MFA are to provide a supportive environment for students to thrive as artists, and to help them develop a set of skills – practical and intellectual – with which to consolidate their careers.*

*"Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK) ... one of the most progressive art schools in Europe", in an e-mail add, Fri, Nov 6, 2020, 11:20 AM

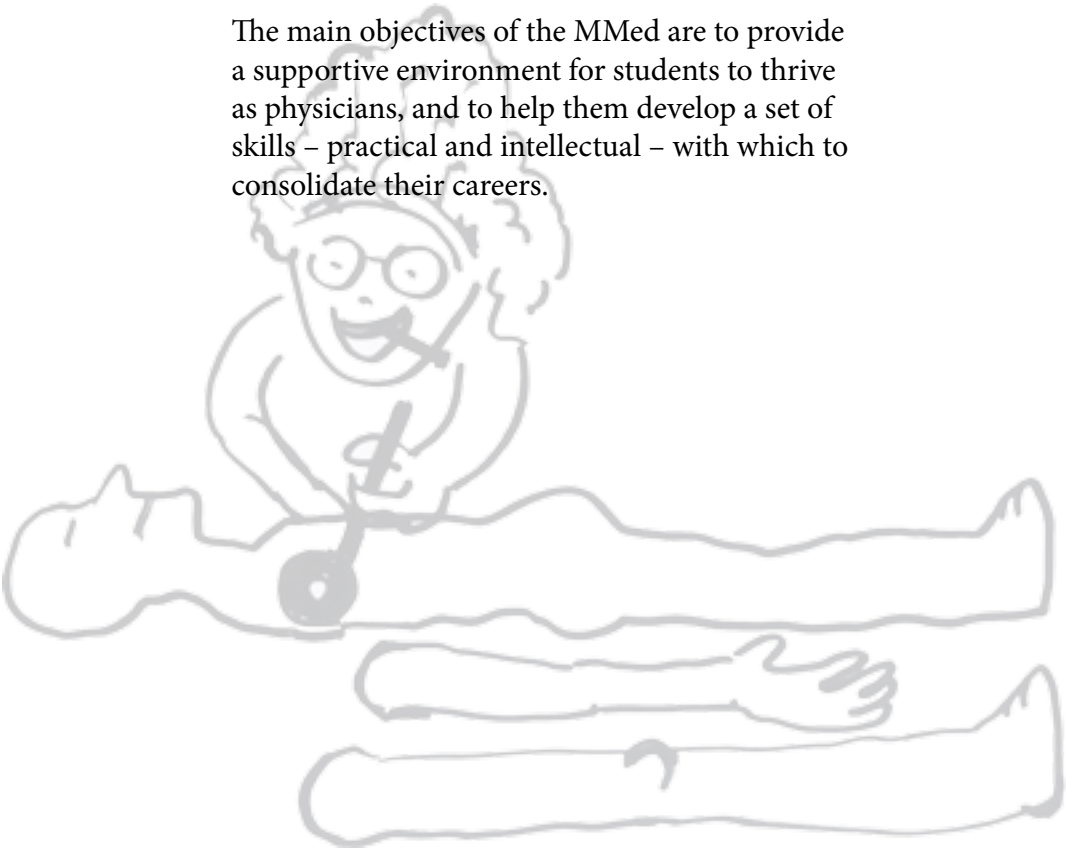


The main objectives of the Training in Becoming a Commercial Airline Pilot are to provide a supportive environment for students to thrive as pilots, and to help them develop a set of skills – practical and intellectual – with which to consolidate their careers.



The main objectives of the JD and LLM studies are to provide a supportive environment for students to thrive as lawyers, prosecutors and judges, and to help them develop a set of skills – practical and intellectual – with which to consolidate their careers.

The main objectives of the MMed are to provide a supportive environment for students to thrive as physicians, and to help them develop a set of skills – practical and intellectual – with which to consolidate their careers.



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knowledge

schmowledge

competence

pompetence

confident,
comfortable,
pleasant,
feeling good,
good about oneself!
no feelings hurt.
supported,
cuddled,
patted,
encouraged,
hygge,
lycke,
cozy,
happy,
art.

& CAREER!

Nina Slejko Blom
2020

5

Spoken
into
the
void

ART=ARS=

ฉวาลFart

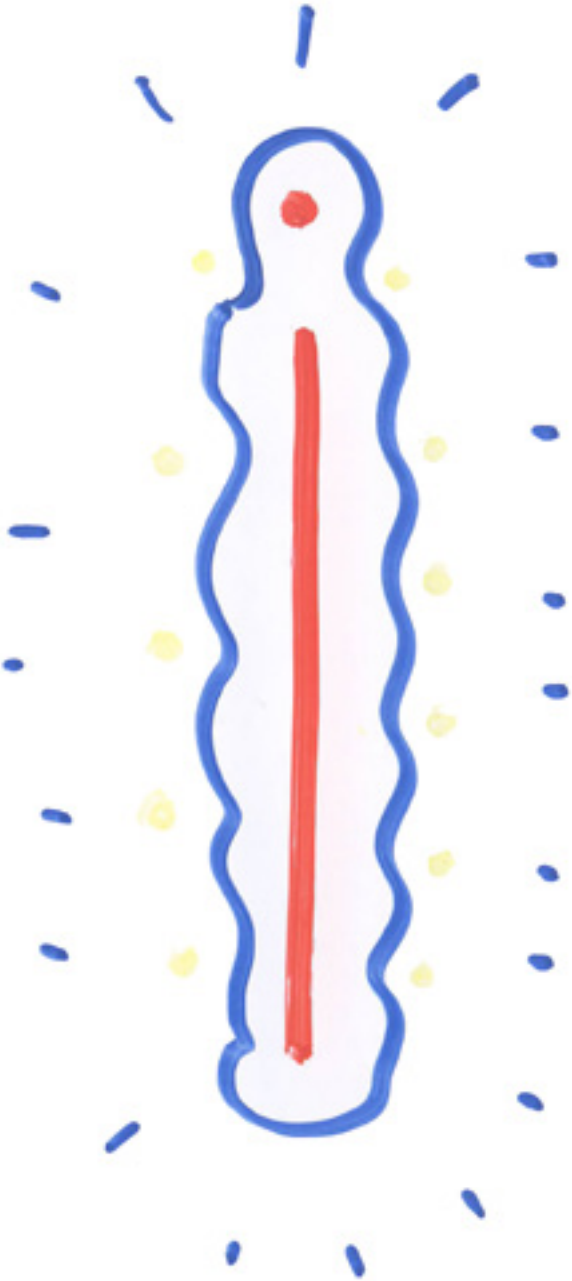
Farsa

fart = arts

emptiness

NSB
2022

6



COULD

BE

SUCH

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ASSET,

IF

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WASN'T

WORLD

SUCH

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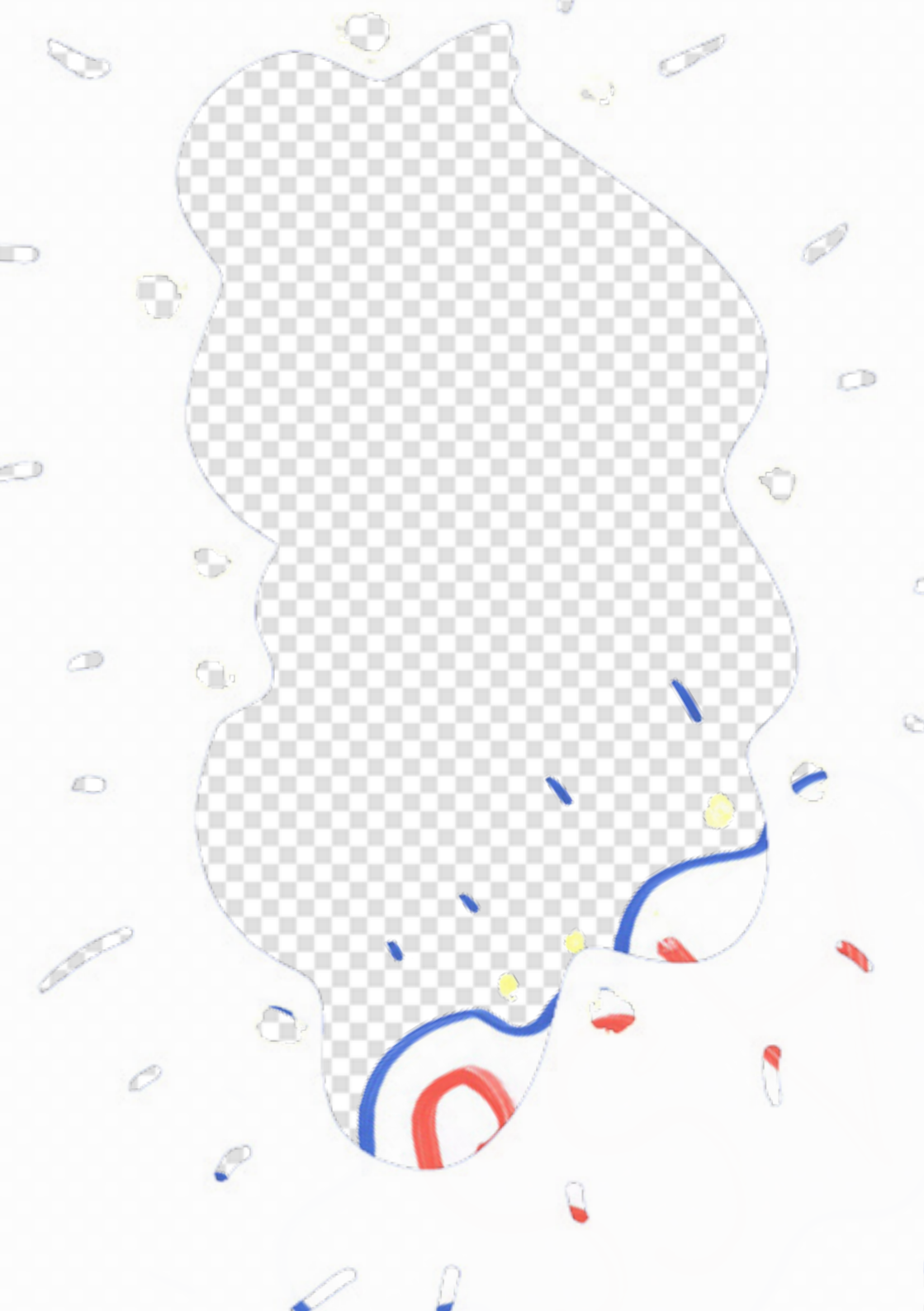


7

– Entirely Internal affair –

Pre-digested Art Digestives

HERE I AM.

I'M VE

HELLO. HERE I AM.

ERY RARERLY HERE.

HELLO. HERE I AM
LOOK AT ME.
TALK LATER.

- So pleads the artwork.

- It whimpers in front of an art critic.

art regurgitation

regurgitated.

HERE. THIS IS THE GRE
CAKE, BY THE GREA
CHÉF. ENJOY!

AT
T
THANK YOU.
SO?
TELL ME ABOUT IT.

- An Entirely Internal Affair -
NSB, 2023

8

Two Women

the left

dr. Asta Vrečko

born 1984

Minister of Culture

the right

Parisa Liljestrand

born 1983

Minister of Culture

dr. Asta Vrečko

Dr Asta Vrečko is an assistant professor and research fellow at the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, where she obtained her doctorate in 2014 from the Department of Art History. She has more than ten years of experience in higher education institutions in culture and art. Her research and scientific work focuses on Slovenian and Yugoslavian art of the 20th century, with an emphasis on the organisation of artists, the history of exhibitions, and the cultural policy in the period of the two Yugoslavias, as well as concentration camp art. Vrečko has also been active as an art critic, cooperated with non-governmental organisations, and participated in several exhibitions and large projects organised by the main Slovenian cultural institutions and abroad, including the National Modern Art Museum in Zagreb. As a member of the curatorial team, she represented the Republic of Slovenia at the Venice Biennale of Architecture in 2021. Between 2018 and 2022, she was a municipal councillor for the Levica political party at the Municipality of Ljubljana, and a member of several municipal committees and cultural institution councils.

Parisa Liljestrand

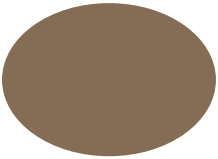
Parisa Liljestrand (M) began her municipal political career as a 19-year-old and has been the chairman of the municipal board in Vallentuna, Sweden, since 2015. She has no experience of cultural policy at the national level and is a trained teacher and principal.

dr. Asta Vrečko

"Our plan is to put culture back on the agenda of Slovenian politics and to give it the support it deserves," she said.

Parisa Liljestrand

"Within the culture politics I have today no experience ... ...but I am an educated religion and Swedish teacher," she said.



NSB, 2022

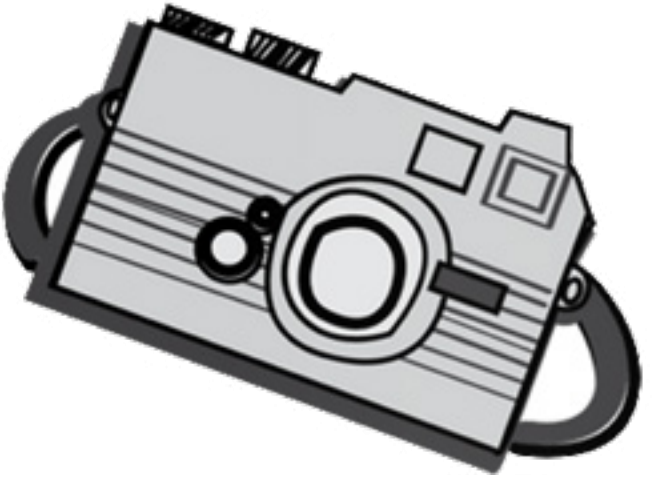
9

The Culture Minister's Favorites

Parisa

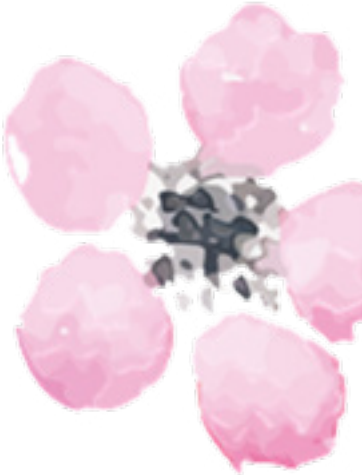
Liljestrand

wonderful memories



BOOK

The Shadow of the Wind



FILM

The Usual Suspects

SONG

747, Kent

ARTWORK

I unfortunately don't know the name of the artist – but it's a work I have at home, oddly enough – that I bought at an arts and crafts festival in southern Sweden.* It was down at a metal forge in Skåne where there was this artist ...

*Every year around the Easter holidays, artists** all over Skåne open their studios and workshops to visitors. (https://visitskane.com/culture-history/konstrundan-art-exhibitions-all-around-skane)

**With few exceptions, these are mainly hobby-artists with handsome studios, predominately inactive in the contemporary art world.

PODD

Systrarna Kjos

The minister's answers are a transcript from an interview on Swedish National TV - https://www.svt.se/kultur/kulturministern-om-kulturkanon-ska-ena-ett-splittrat-sverige

1. The government that appointed the minister has not yet found it worthwhile (or does not know how?) to teach Parisa Liljestrand the act of appearing less clueless in the field she is presiding over. Ever since her appointment, Liljestrand has been radiating professional inaptitude. Not familiar with the work of the likes of Ruben Östlund, she is the number one culture figure in a government that is planning to instill a new "culture canon" on its citizens.

2. This same government is marginalizing organizations working with nature protection, freedom of speech and human rights - the staples which used to be proud constituents of Swedish welfare state are now being shoved aside as unnecessary, special interests, opinion makers.
When CRD (Civil Rights Defenders) raised concerns over the Tidö Agreement* for its being in conflict with the international human rights conventions, SD's Björn Söder answered by demanding the withdrawal of the state funds to the organization.

3. ?

*The Tidö Agreement is the written agreement among the right-wing parties forming the government, and the far right Sweden Democrats (SD) — this is the first time a far-right party has been given direct influence on government policy in Sweden.

NSB, 2022

Hey, hey, you there
Tell me how have you been?

Sledgehammer, NSB, 2023

front and back from “Sledgehammer,” a song
by Peter Gabriel

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT MY ART? DO YOU WANT TO SHOW IT?

NO.

OKAY.

HOW ABOUT MY SLEDGEHAMMER?

DO YOU

WANT TO

...

SHOW IT?

Ah, I'm your sledgehammer
Let there be no doubt about it

HOW WOULD IT BE?

I often think of how it would be

If

I

was

any good at PR—

at advertising me.

And was considered an equal,

had money

& authority.

How successful?
NSB 2024

2 women, II

occupez-vous de vos oignons

Ghislaine Leung is a British conceptual artist. Born in Stockholm, Sweden (1980) to a father from Hong Kong and a mother from London, she was raised first in Reims, France and then in London, UK. She received a BA in Fine Art in context at the University of the West of England in 2002 and a master's in aesthetics and art theory at the Centre for Research in Modern European Philosophy at Middlesex University in 2009.

A replica of Renoir's Pomegranates hung in her childhood home (referred to by the family as “onions”, the replica had been commissioned by Leung's grandmother before selling the original).

Nina Slejko Blom is a Swedish conceptual artist. Born in Postojna, Yugoslavia (1982) to a father from Bukovje and a mother from Predjama, she was raised in Bukovje. She received a BA in Fine Art at the Ljubljana Academy of Fine Arts in 2006 and a master's of Fine Art at the Valand School of Fine Art in Gothenburg, Sweden in 2009.

An embroidery made by her grandmother hung in her childhood home.

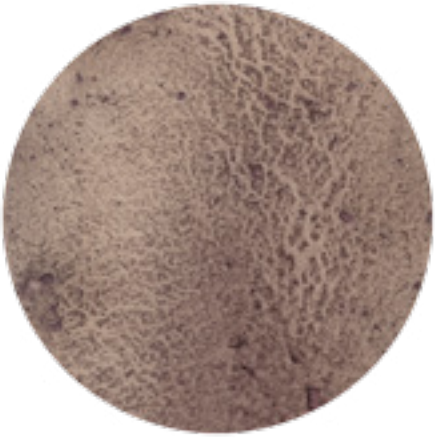
Know your pomegranates and
your place,

don’t fall far from your tree.

& take care of your onions!

NSB
2024

Ω



Assistant's Work ()
NSB 2015/2023

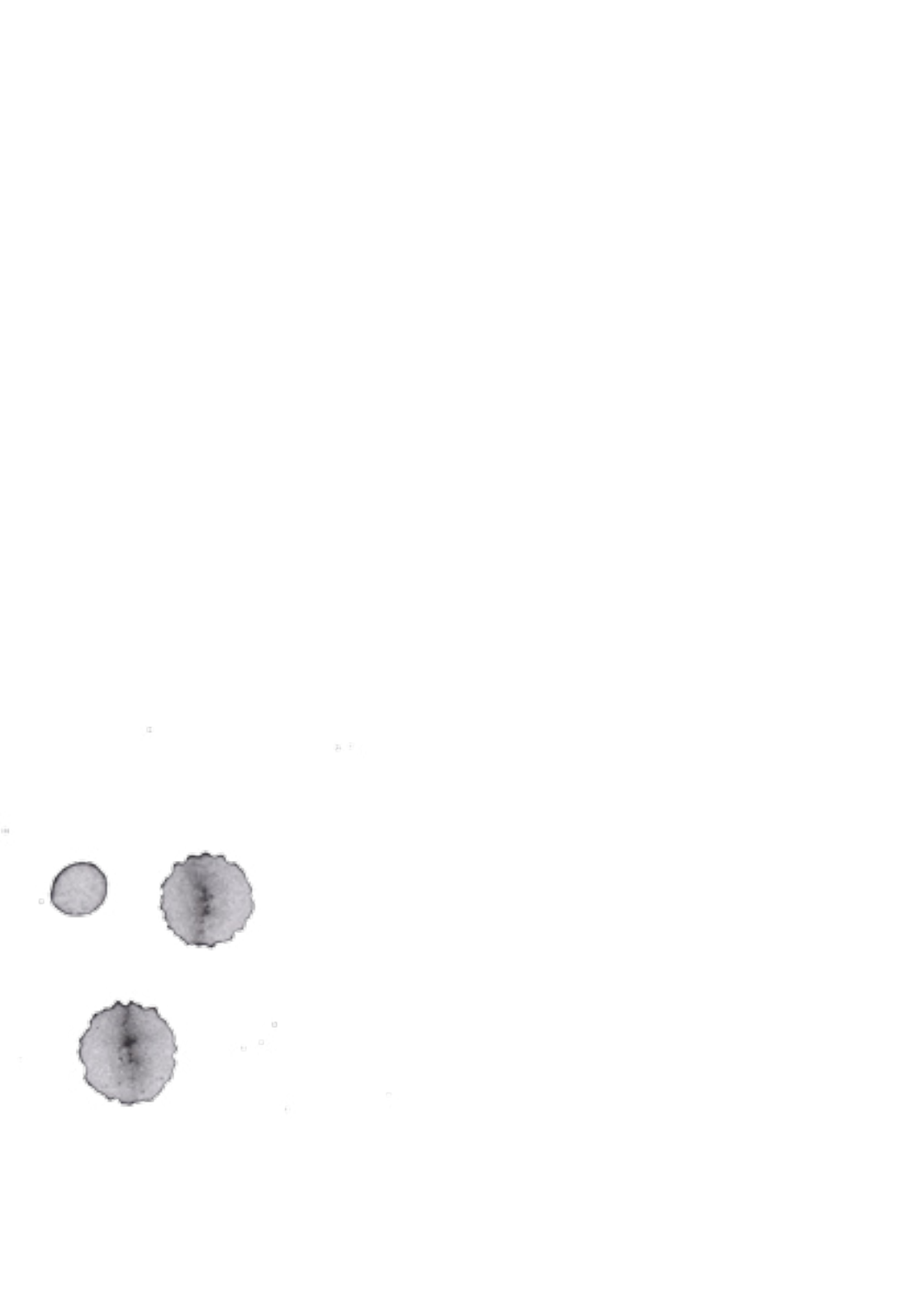
- Hi. - Hi. - Danish. Danish. Danish, Danish. Danish. Danish. Danish Danish Danish Danish Danish Danish Danish Danish Danish Danish Danish Danish Danish. Danish. Danish. Danish. Danish Danish Danish Danish. Danish. Danish, Danish. Danish Danish Danish Danish Danish Danish Danish Danish Danish Danish Danish, Danish. Danish. Danish. Danish. Danish Danish Danish Danish. Danish. Danish, Danish. Danish, Danish. Danish. Danish, Danish. Danish. Danish. Danish. Danish Danish Danish Danish. Danish. anish. Danish Danish Danish Danish Danish Danish Danish. Danish. Danish Danish Danish Danish. Danish. Danish. Danish. Danish Danish Danish Danish. Danish. Danish, Danish. Danish Danish Danish Danish. Danish. Danish, Danish. Danish. Danish. Danish. Danish. Danish. Danish Danish Danish Danish. Danish. Danish. Danish. Danish Danish Danish Danish. Danish. Danish, Danish. Danish Danish Danish Danish. Danish. Danish, Danish. Danish. Danish. Danish. Danish Danish Danish Danish. Danish. Danish, Danish. Danish Danish Danish Danish. Danish. Danish, Danish. Danish. Danish. Danish. Danish Danish Danish Danish. Danish. Danish, Danish. Danish Danish Danish Danish. Danish. Danish, Danish. Danish. Danish, Danish. Danish. Danish. Danish. Danish Danish Danish Danish. Danish. Danish, Danish. Danish Danish Danish Danish. Danish. Danish, Danish. Danish Danish Danish Danish Danish. Danish. Danish Danish Danish Danish. Danish. Danish. Danish. Danish Danish Danish Danish. Danish. Danish, Danish. Danish Danish Danish Danish. Danish. Danish, Danish. Danish. Danish. Danish. Danish Danish Danish Danish. Danish. Danish, Danish. Danish Danish Danish Danish. Danish. Danish, Danish. Danish. Danish. Danish. Danish Danish Danish Danish. Danish. Danish, Danish. Danish Danish Danish Danish. Danish. Danish, Danish. Danish. Danish. Danish. Danish Danish Danish Danish. Danish. Danish, Danish. Danish Danish Danish Danish. Danish. Danish, Danish. Danish. Danish, Danish. Danish. Danish. Danish. Danish Danish Danish Danish. Danish. Danish, Danish. Danish Danish Danish Danish. Danish. Danish, Danish. Danish. Danish. Danish. Danish Danish Danish Danish. Danish. Danish Danish Danish Danish Danish Danish Danish. Danish. Danish Danish Danish Danish. -Bye. - Bye.

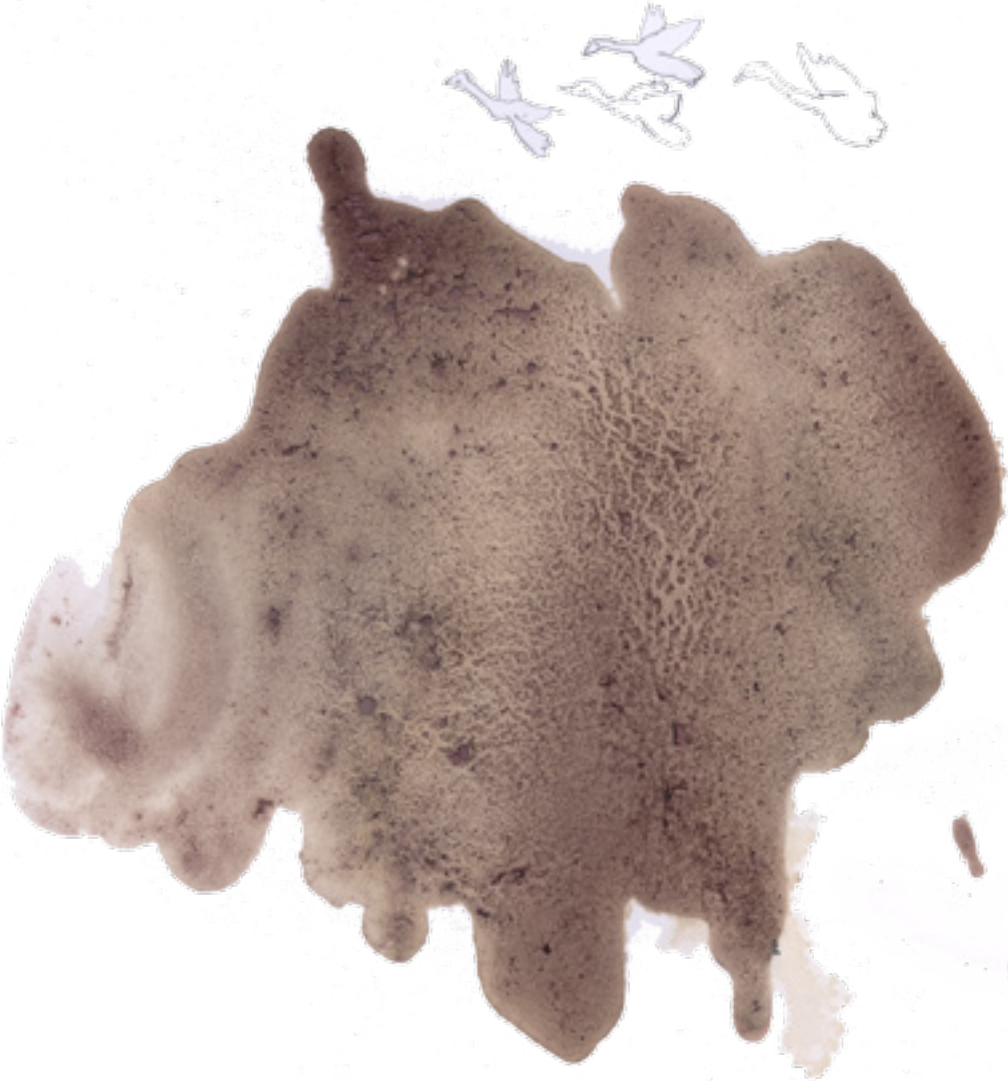
4 swans flew past the train, then Tal played Ease Down the Road and then the paint ran out! A good day!

I lied.

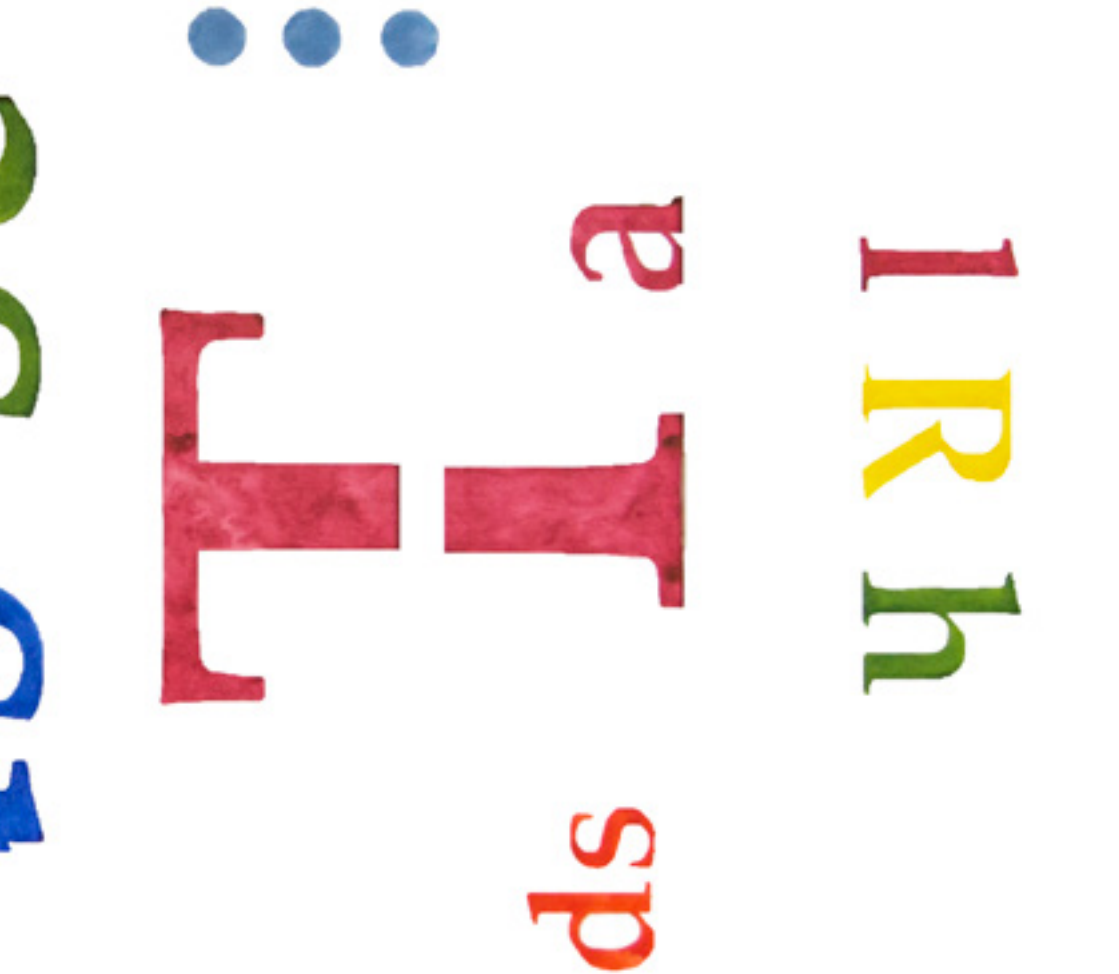
It was great.
I'll definitely do it again sometime.

One day, there was a Dom Perignon Vintage 2003 Champagne in the studio.
One day, there were two.

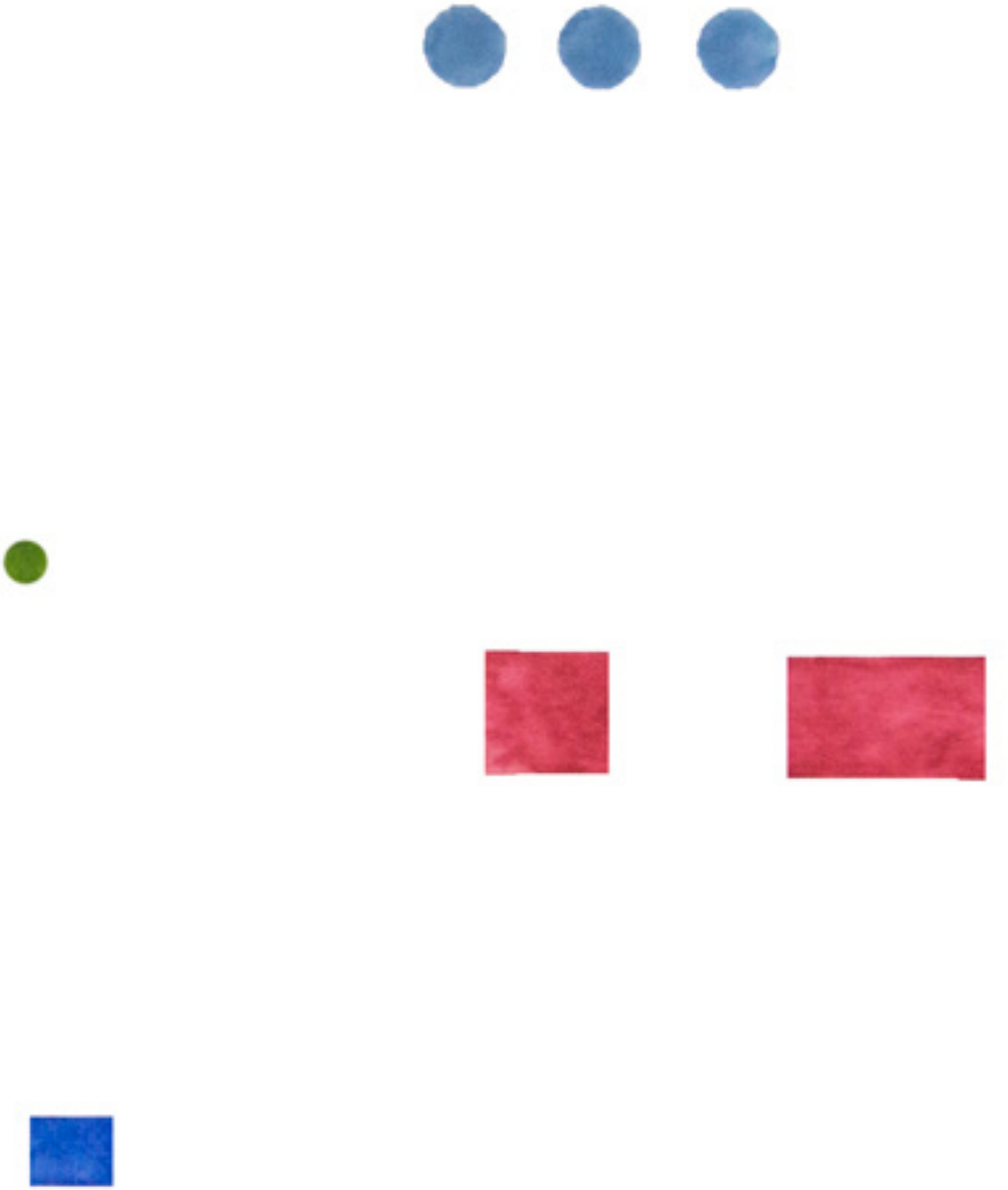




YOU KNOW



Assistant's Work (You Know What They Say)
NSB 2015/2023



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WHAT THEY SAY

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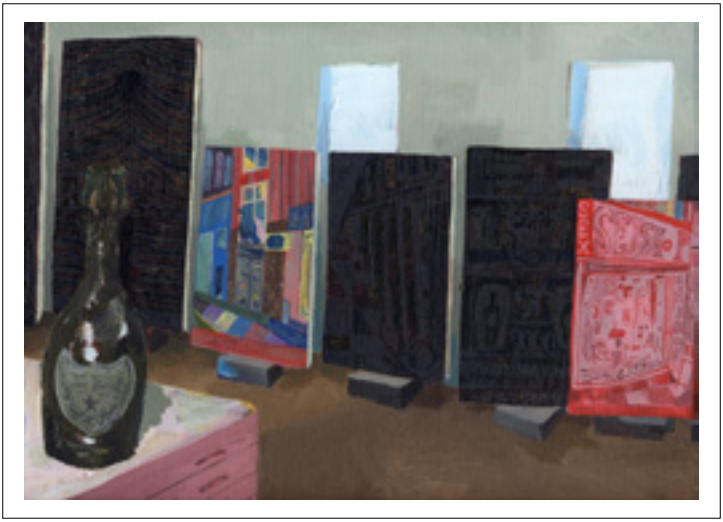
I GET ANGRY ABOUT THINGS, THEN GO ON AND WORK

Assistant's Work (I get angry about things, then go on and work*)
NSB 2015/2023

*a Toni Morisson quote



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Do you remember these disclaimers?

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Do you remember these disclaimers?

Please consider the environment before browsing the Internet/using ChatGPT/watching videos of eco-friendly practices & kitty cats ...

"Nina Slejko Blom's latest book is an extraordinary exploration of the personal, political, and poetic. With over 1,000 pages of images and texts, this ambitious trilogy offers a deeply intimate yet wide-ranging meditation on art, family, and society, weaving together the artist's experiences across two distinct cultural landscapes—her native Slovenia and her adopted home of Sweden.

Slejko Blom's work is a masterful interplay of contrasting realities. Her anthology of booklets, collected over years, captures the subtleties of contemporary life, including the clash of past and present, rural and urban, personal and communal. Through works like Small Talk (2021) and Unicorns Are Stupid (2023), she explores the everyday with sharp humor and poignant vulnerability, while titles like The Circle of Frankness (2024) and Prosopagnosia (2023) probe identity and human relationships in thought-provoking ways. Each piece is a stand-alone reflection, yet they form an interwoven narrative that challenges and invites the reader into a world both familiar and alien.

At the heart of this project is a profound comparison between Slovenia and Sweden—two places that symbolize, for Slejko Blom, different stages of life, mindsets, and artistic expression. Her work dissects notions of belonging, displacement, and national identity, while also addressing universal questions of normalcy, connection, and transformation, as seen in How foreign? and How at ease?.

The book, in its sheer breadth, becomes an interactive experience, much like her visual installations. It is a collection that asks questions rather than providing answers, with each page encouraging reflection on the worlds we inhabit and how they shape us.

Slejko Blom's expansive work is a significant contribution to contemporary art and literature, a testimony to the power of observation and self-expression, and an essential commentary on the shared yet unique experiences of our time."

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