

Major new artwork by Nathan Coley commissioned by Lund Cathedral



And We Are Everywhere by Nathan Coley © Peter Westrup

Lund Cathedral, in collaboration with White Arkitekter, has commissioned a major new artwork by internationally renowned British artist Nathan Coley. The work, entitled *And We Are Everywhere*, was launched in Lund, Sweden, on 2 June 2018 and will remain onsite until March 2019.

And We Are Everywhere is the first artwork to be commissioned for the Church's land in Brunnsög, an area on the edge of Lund which is central to the city's ambitious plans for expansion. Sited within a rural landscape, the sculpture addresses fundamental issues at stake in both the Church's development and 21st century life: the ways in which faith and belief systems become manifest; the role of the Church; and the drive for humanity to find a place in the world.

The character of the work is temporary, ramshackle and seemingly unauthored. In direct contrast to Lund Cathedral, it takes the form of a hastily made place of worship that has no official status and can be easily destroyed. However, the attention to detail and evident care with which it has been constructed references basic human actions, humility and the art of 'making-do'.

The title begs the question 'Who is 'we'?' Is it the Church, humankind, or people with no homeland? The 'everywhere' evokes a spatial relationship to the land which could encompass Brunnsög, Lund, Sweden, the world. While being inherently linked to the soil upon which it sits, the sculpture speaks to a universal audience.

The Commission is part of the Råängen programme, established by Lund Cathedral in 2017 as an inclusive platform for discussion about how the Church's land is developed in Brunnsög.

Råängen is a five-year programme of public and international events, talks and seminars on subjects relating to time, land, value, ownership and belief systems. It has been devised in collaboration with White Arkitekter, who have been commissioned to transform the Cathedral's twelve hectares of farm land into a new urban extension, informed by the consultation programme.

Jake Ford, Råängen Programme Director, White Arkitekter commented "It is hugely exciting that this is the first mark on the land at Råängen. Nathan's sculpture is a temporary artwork which will no doubt influence the long-term building project. As the first commission, this demonstrates the ambitions of the client: to talk before you build, and to expand the debate around contemporary urban development."

Following the launch of *And We Are Everywhere*, Norwegian architects Brendeland and Kristoffersen will launch a public garden as part of the programme in Spring 2019.

Quotes

Johan Tyrberg, Bishop, Diocese of Lund

"The work forces us to consider what churches are, why we need them, what a sacred building is in relation to a place of worship. Luther campaigned that there was no such thing as a sacred building – that services could take place anywhere. The Lutheran churches has since then realized the importance of the sanctity of churches, and the importance to acknowledge the respect people give churches. How do we know a church is a church? Is it supposed to look like a church?"

Lena Sjöstrand, Chaplain, Lund Cathedral

"I am excited to see the response to Nathan's sculpture in Brunnsög. It has huge integrity and raises many questions about the nature of faith and humanity. I'm interested in the empty space inside the work and how this can be linked to Christian ideas of dwelling. It is important to me that we meet the personal voice of the artist, and that this builds on the Cathedral's long-term commitment to engaging with contemporary artists."

Jes Fernie, Curator, Råängen

“Twenty-five years in the field of contemporary art commissioning and I’ve never come across this level of ambition, openness and intellectual rigour, matched by both commissioner and artist. It’s incredibly exciting to see the result: an artwork that addresses head-on, the fundamental issues of our day.”

Kieran Long, Director, ArkDes, and Råängen Advisory Group member

“Råängen is a fascinating programme which contributes significantly to the conversation around urban expansion in the 21st century. Nathan Coley’s artwork is a bold and rigorous starting point for this dialogue.”

Åsa Nacking, Director, Lunds Konsthall, and Råängen Advisory Group member

"A tent or a church? It stands out, at least on this site, while it is only too recognisable from media news reports. When art is at its best, it reflects its own time. With Nathan Coley’s new work, we are reminded that we live in a moment characterized by huge change and population movement – something to keep in mind when planning for the future."

ENDS

For further information on **White Arkitekter** please contact Gloria Roberts at Caro Communications Gloria@carocommunications.com

For further information on **And We Are Everywhere** please contact Jes Fernie – jes@jesfernie.com

Notes to Editors

Råängen

The Råängen programme is designed as a tool to inform the development of the church’s land at Brunnsbö, which is one part of an urban extension project for Lund that includes the Max IV and ESS research facilities, Science Village Scandinavia and a new tram link. The Church’s project takes on a thousand-year perspective which forces us to assume a radical, long-term view of contemporary urban development.

www.raangen.se

Nathan Coley is a British artist living and working in Glasgow, Scotland. Recent solo exhibitions include those at Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh (2017); Parafin, London (2017); Kunstverein Freiburg, Germany (2013); Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver (2012); ACCA, Melbourne (2011). He was shortlisted for the Turner Prize in 2007. He is represented by Parafin Gallery in London and his work is part of many international collections.

www.studionathancoley.com

Lund Cathedral is the Lutheran cathedral in Lund, Skåne, south Sweden. The east altar was consecrated in 1123, making the Cathedral one of the oldest in Scandinavia. It is Sweden's most visited church and houses the world famous astronomical clock (Horologium miracle Lundense) which dates from 1424. The building project in Brunnshög is the first time in recent history that the Cathedral has chosen to play a key role in the development of its own land. The aim is to address 21st century challenges by creating a sustainable and inclusive neighbourhood, that is able to meet people's needs for centuries to come.

About White Arkitekter

White Arkitekter was founded by Sidney White in 1951 and is Scandinavia's leading architectural firm with over 900 employees working in 13 offices in Sweden, Norway and the UK. White's work is research focused on and expertise encompasses architecture, urban design, landscape architecture and interior design.

For nearly two decades, White has invested in establishing a unique research-based organisation of highly qualified experts in the field of sustainable design. Sidney White's aim was to improve society through architecture and his legacy lives on in our ambition to contribute towards the building of a sustainable world.

www.whitearkitekter.com

Jes Fernie is an independent curator and writer based in the UK. She works with galleries, architectural practices and public realm organisations on public programmes, commissioning schemes and exhibitions. She has been working with Lund Cathedral and White Arkitekter over the past year, developing the Råängen programme.

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RÅÄNGEN



Art & architecture programme for Lund
www.raangen.se