

## Bus Riders previews Vårsalongen at Liljevalchs

On January 23rd, 2019, the Bus Riders network attended a preview of the annual exhibition, The Spring Salon “Vårsalongen” at Liljevalchs. The gallery’s director, Mårten Castenfors, guided us, highlighting some of his favourite and the most stand-out pieces, as well as explaining the selection process and the thinking behind the exhibition.



Entrance for Liljevalchs 2019

The Spring Salon is a controversial and lively tradition dating back to 1921, cherished by the many thousands of visitors that attend every year. Each year a new jury, made up of individuals with varied backgrounds within the art world, is appointed. The jury looks for pieces that can work together in a “generous

and joyous exhibition.” Each piece is judged anonymously.



Bus Riders network listening to Mårten Castenfors

This year the exhibition includes 136 participants showing 254 works, after a record-breaking number of applications, totalling over 3,500. The youngest is an 18-year-old from Stockholm and the oldest are two participants in their nineties. Each piece is for sale to the general public.

The largest piece in this year’s collection was a large wooden frame containing seventeen thousand small, wooden figures, each one representing the estimated seventeen thousand individuals that will be deported from Sweden back to Afghanistan. Organised by the collective Forma, over 1500 people contributed to the piece, some of whom were

amongst those who have fled Afghanistan to Sweden in the last few years. Castenfors explained that the piece is **one of the few political artworks** in this year's collection.



"17000" by the art collective Forma

The **youngest featured artist** was Axel Österholm, who recreated miniature versions of important places in his childhood, including fast food kiosks and a tobacco shop "where I bought my first cigarettes." Castenfors guessed that these statues would be one of **the first to be sold** once the collection was opened up to the public.



"Nattgrillen" by Axel Österholm

A noteworthy painting submitted under the tongue-in-cheek pseudonym "Bullevuttan," portrays famous Swedish painter **Anders Zorn**. Rather than having a nude young woman as the subject, as is common in Zorn's work, this painter flipped the perspective and made Zorn the subject, also in the nude. With a price tag of **SEK 1 million**, the painting is the most expensive in this year's collection.



"Röd Sand" portraying Anders Zorn by Bullevuttan

The viewing was very much enjoyed by the Bus Rider's network. **Thank you very much to Mårten Castenfors and Liljevalchs** for having us once again. Looking forward to next year!