

22 Feb 2022

In many ways *Samlande tankar/Collecting Thoughts* is in its beginnings. For example, this letter comes three weeks after the first expert council meeting of many. The eight council members, myself and the Grafikens Hus team gathered over zoom for a largely introductory meeting. What is the expert council, you may ask? The expert council guides *Samlande tankar/Collecting thoughts* philosophically, theoretically and practically. *Samlande tankar/Collecting Thoughts* being the process through which Grafikens Hus formulates a method for collecting that we can take into the future, the expert council is the place where this method will largely be formulated.

The first expert council meeting saw the members introduced to each other and revealed the myriad of ways in which we each view, use and engage with collections and archives. These myriads of ways challenge the archive, creolise it, unfold it, demystify it, trace it, confront it, personalize it, connect and tie it to the real world and so on.

Grafikens Hus has set itself the task of constructing an intersectional and norm-critical collection that can hold a plethora of stories, and thus, people. This is a task that other institutions, realising the colonial, patriarchal and white-normative roots of their collections, have also attempted to take up through a number of strategies, including gap filling strategies that work backwards to attempt redress. While, perhaps attempting a different kind of redress, albeit with a diminished collection, it is no doubt that our expert council's experiences and practices with archives will be and are invaluable *Samlande tankar/Collecting Thoughts* and the task set before us.

This past month also saw Grafikens Hus's participation in Folk och Kultur through *Samlande tankar/Collecting Thoughts*. In a discussion titled "Samlande tankar/Collecting Thoughts: History and Future of Printmaking Collections in Sweden", we further introduce *Samlande tankar/Collecting Thoughts* to a broader audience. In a discussion with Niklas Östholm, Folkrorelsernas konstfrämjande, and Alexandra Fredriksson, Konstfrämjandet Skåne we looked at printmaking and printmaking collections in Sweden and how they relate to old and new understandings of 'art for all'. Discussions like these are crucial for Grafikens Hus as we work, within and beyond *Samlande tankar/Collecting Thoughts*, to give the notion of 'printmaking for all' a concrete meaning.

Monthly Report #3 is the first report using the project's visual identity designed

by Johnny Chang. For the visual identity, Johnny has centered printmaking, including its processes. The visual identity communicates *Samlande tankar/Collecting Thoughts* as a playful and curious process and visualises it as a research process where we, through collecting fragments and literally, our thoughts, approach coherence. I especially like how in some ways, it proposes that coherence is always present and available to the viewer, depending, of course, on their perspective and the gaze with which they approach the image. The visual identity will unfold over March to eventually a page for *Samlande tankar/Collecting Thoughts* on the Grafikens Hus website.

Like any research process, *Samlande tankar/Collecting Thoughts* is moving along slowly but surely and has many exciting collaborations, events and moments to think and read together on the horizon, including a reading group centering collections and collecting on March 3rd. More details about this will be available soon.

Until then. Thank you for reading.

Signed,
Mmabatho Thobejane
Samlande tankar/Collecting Thoughts
Process leader and Curator.