

October 2022

Dear friends,

I have now finished my first two months at Grafikens Hus, working on the Collecting Thoughts project. This time has been dedicated to getting a lay of the land, and planning for what this year of the project may bring.

If Year 1 was focused on the important work of exploring process in order to create a common foundation to build upon, Year 2 will focus on production. What does production mean in an endeavor that is still deep in process to find a method for collecting? I'm imagining time spent examining and testing different vantage points, for example using exercises for working to challenge existing structures within practices of collecting, archiving, digitalization, distribution, and categorizing.

A method that I personally plan to employ this year is to use the form of the manifesto as an explorative space, a space that encourages the formulation of big visions and dreams. A space that can broaden the horizons and spark creativity. A space that allows both play and sincerity, hard questions and answers.

A manifesto is a piece of writing that communicates ideas and assertions through a program. This program should be clearly stated and makes the author's or movement's stance public. Art movements have written manifestoes, social movements have written manifestoes; even political party programs can be viewed as manifestoes.

When the expert council met for the first time this project year they read Christian As. Kirtchev's "A Cyberpunk Manifesto" from 1997. Based on a prompt, the members of the council went into dialogue with the text as an exercise in exploring the format and collectively author a response to this particular instance of it. This took place during a visit with the Public Art Agency Sweden, where we were also given an introduction to the agency's graphic design collection, and a tour of their new space on Skeppsholmen. It was also great to view the show "Meet the Art: the Covid Collection—A selection of the Public Art Agency Sweden's newly acquired works from 2021", which displayed a selection of those newly acquired works. The expert council will return to the agency next year for a deeper study of the role of graphic design in social movements. I very much look forward to this; in my view graphic design is closer

to the public than any other art form, a subject I will return to.

This year's artists in residence is Johnny Chang, who will focus on questions around digitalization, accessibility, and the presence of images in our lives. The artist Afrang Nordlöf Malekian continues to be a part of Collecting Thoughts through his three-year artist residency. Both of their perspectives and work will be invaluable as we dedicate the coming year to collecting, structures, and exploration of methods.

/Macarena Dusan

Samlande tankar/Collecting Thoughts
Process leader and Curator