



PANORAMA – art hugged by trees.

A holistic view of the natural world around us

A project and collaboration between Gunilla Klingberg and Peter Geschwind



LIFESYSTEMS-NONSPACE at Wanås Konst 2019.

Filled with just air, pressed between trees, branches and leafage and formed to align with the surrounding nature PANORAMA is an nomadic immersive translucent breathing sculpture, that allows you to enter and experience the world as one living organism. Imagine stepping in and immersing yourself into a giant lung, which moves with the wind, revealing a shadow play of the trees outside. The shape and size of the sculpture adapt organically to the surrounding trees, while the shadow of the branches leave a vein-like structure on the sculpture's "skin".

Not a fixed reality, it is a space that subtly links the man-made architectural with the natural environment. As a lens of perception, it gently urges you to ponder upon your own relationship to nature. Referring to the painterly panorama, the immersive panoptic experience of a landscape view, in use long before the invention of photography and VR, it presents an inverted "analogue" panorama to view our environment

from inside out, by revealing the invisible negative space that surrounds us and nature.

Forests and trees are often referred to as the lungs of earth and crucial for our survival. There is undeniable scientific proof that deforestation is one of the great causes of climate change, while there is abundant evidence of the connection between environmental change and diseases such as the coronavirus. Oxygen is more precious than ever. PANORAMA is a poetic call to attention to the fragility and complexities of our ecosystems. It raises environmental consciousness through art and the imaginary. The project cultivates environmental awareness through exploring a new direction, in which artistic, poetic form of expression contribute to a more holistic view of the natural world around us and it stimulates interdisciplinary dialogue about climate change.

The formidable marine biologist and poet Rachel Carson is the inspiration for the project. Carson who wrote poetry and fairy tales to emotionally connect people to other living beings and nature, she was the spearhead of environmental activism, pressing people to act with care of the living earth and helped to shape a growing environmental consciousness. While the project is also shaped by the Gaia Theory, a relatively new way of understanding life on our planet formulated by the scientist and futurist James Lovelock in the 1970s, which poses that living organisms and their inorganic surroundings have evolved together as a single living self-regulating system.



Mock-up test in the studio with airlock door for entrance.

A nomadic project, PANORAMA is an immersive walk-in sculpture, and can pop-up in any woody place, a park, a forest or a garden. It is an organic inflatable translucent shape made of light-weight biodegradable hot air balloon material of variable dimensions of approximately 40m length, 20m height and a diameter of 15m. The weight is 170 kg. It will be fire-proof and equipped with a secure entrance and air ventilation. Guided by the "new normal", it will allow maximum 3 persons inside at the time. The shape will be inflated with a blower and once it reaches a level where it touches the branches without pushing them away, the blower is turned off automatically. The air would then slowly go out and by use of a timer that turns on the blower every 5 minutes, it blows for around 1 minute to get it back to the desired inflated level, creating a cyclic "breathing" motion.



PANORAMA will tour between art institutions in the Nordic countries and beyond, and is initiating collaborations with Greenpeace and WWF. Notwithstanding its huge dimensions it is quick and effortless to install, and easy and cheap to transport; the entire structure can be folded and packed into a box that is not larger than 1.50 x 1.50 x 1.50m.



The structure and solar panels are packed on to a trailer for easy transport.

Notes on the background and development of the project

PANORAMA is the latest chapter of LIFESYSTEMS, an on-going project and a collaboration between Gunilla Klingberg and Peter Geschwind. LIFESYSTEMS took its departure from an early collaborative work, entitled CHEAP HIGH (2000-2005). Concerned with consumerism and mass production this inflatable work was an assemblage of plastic bags collected on site from mundane grocery stores from various cities in the world. 20 years later LIFESYSTEMS re-emerges from the work CHEAP HIGH, takes a new perspective and addresses our environment, ecology and climate change, this time turning the focus from the outside to the inside.



Cheap High, 2000-2003, plastic bags, tape, electric fans.
Gunilla Klingberg and Peter Geschwind.
Fundamentalisms of the New Order, Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, 2002.

2018, LIFESYSTEMS at NIROX, Johannesburg, South Africa.



LIFESYSTEMS at Nirox Foundation, South Africa, 2018.

The work LIFESYSTEMS started in 2018 with an invitation from Wanås Konst to develop a new collaborative work for the exhibition "Not a single story" and residency at the Nirox Foundation, a sculpture park located in an area referred to as the "Cradle of human kind". Visiting the caves in the region they became fascinated by the way these had emerged over long periods of time, and how the various combinations of water, limestone, oxygen etc had generated and preserved a manifold of shapes. Caves as a space also served as sites for protection and conservation of habitats. The starting point of the sculpture at NIROX was the relation between the extreme slow development of the caves and our own short existence. Using materials that in some way had a "protective" aspect, such as survival blankets (of which the project took its name; the brand LIFESYSTEMS), thermal bags, and tarpaulins they proposed an inflatable structure in the park, simulating an inverted cave construction above ground. The result was a virus like structure inflated with air by blowers that "grew" out between the trees and bushes.

2019
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The exhibition "Not a single story" continued to Sweden at Wanås and gave them the opportunity to develop the work further. Only once the sculpture was up in Nirox, they discovered the shadows inside of the sculpture, shadows from the surrounding trees that reflected a negative space. This would be the foundation for the new work. Here the sculpture is formed to align with the forest and to make negative space in nature visible. The surrounding tree branches create a monochromatic impression against the tarpaulin's surface, through peepholes on the sides, one could see the shadow play of nature in the interior of the form. The empty/negative space in the park defined the 3-dimensional shape of the sculpture and the branches around it created a 2-dimensional pattern on the surface. The addition "NONSPACE" in the title is a loose reference to Alexander Calder, of how he speaks about the perception of the world surrounding his sculptures and his understanding of architectural and natural environments.



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Photo: Sanna Lindberg



Link to filmed documentation from inside the sculpture at Wanås Konst, 2019: <https://lifesytems-panorama.com/>

BIOGRAPHY

Gunilla Klingberg and Peter Geschwind were part of the non-profit alternative space Ynglingagatan 1 in Stockholm in the 90's. Today they run a joint studio working mainly with public art commissions, parallel to their individual practices. They received a IASPIS artist studio residency in Berlin in the early 2000 and lived and worked in Berlin for some years. They represented Sweden in the 10th New Delhi Triennale 2001 (co-curated by Moderna Museet, Stockholm) with a collaboration and participated in the IASPIS exhibition ReShape! at the Venice Biennale 2002, followed by Art Moscow 2001. Gunilla and Peter are today working on a large-scale permanent sculpture for Linköping municipality and Gunilla is currently working on several international large-scale art commissions: for Kanalbyen, Fredericia, Denmark (Statens Kunstfond); the Slussen bus terminal in Stockholm (TF) and Burrard Place in Vancouver, Canada.

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