

FROM THE ARTIST'S STUDIO – A BOOK ABOUT DOING



Från ateljén – En bok om att göra

Cilla Ramnek
195x285, 208p

“All artists and creatives have their special strategies, and I can tell you exactly when I found mine. It was in my fortieth year, in connection with my first solo exhibition. For various reasons I'd delayed stepping into the limelight and once I'd found a gallery and started working in the studio, various things started to happen. Without realising it, I was struck by severe performance anxiety, started pacing around, sweating and doubting everything. There were canvasses with half-begun naturalist portraits hanging all over the flat, and I threw myself back and forth into family life, household chores and work. Everything seemed chaotic. I spent evenings and nights doing bead work, constantly increasing the size and number of pegboards. In time, I realised that this nightly activity was the real work – during the day I was busy living up to the idea I had of what it was to be an artist.

Somewhere along the line I decided that my artistic task was about *Doing* rather than about doing *Well*. If what I do is good, less good or bad, the result comes second to the actual doing. Curiosity and a desire to do things are my drivers, for example, I might be eager to see what happens if I crochet with five threads at once, or whether a piece of paper will withstand being rubbed with shoe polish. Doing is about experimenting; through trial and error I see if things work, hold together, if they are possible, or if I can do them. What happens if you make a room with giant furniture, what does the room look like then? What happens if you roll paint straight onto sofa upholstery – will the paint crack then? This book is about just that – doing without thinking too much. And how it turns out, we'll see – that's a completely different story.”



About the author

Cilla Ramnek is an artist and designer whose work includes design, styling and decorating and teaching and supervising other artists. She has exhibited in Stockholm, Paris and Moscow and her work can also be seen in public environments such as Umeå University, Huddinge hospital and the floor of Café Saturnus in Stockholm. Cilla collaborated with Karin Södergren and Annica Kvint on the 2013 exhibition Home Sweet Home at Liljevalchs, Stockholm, where they transformed the art hall into a residential space. Cilla is associate professor of textiles at the Stockholm College of Arts, Crafts and Design and a designer for Svenskt Tenn.



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