

To the future Unicorn resident/s:

Dear(s),

Unicorn group asked us to write to you a little about our experience as artists in residence in Malmö (2017). At the invitation of Unicorn, we spent in Malmö almost two months in total, divided in two halves: first half in August and then we returned in October.

While in Malmö we worked on several projects in parallel. We managed to finish editing an older video project (using the editing computer at IAC), we started and tested a future board game with a queer twist, and we met quite a number of persons who invited us for dinner... This is a longer story, it was the main project for us, we wanted to get invited to dinners in the houses of queer strangers, as a way of meeting people, eating their food and listening to their stories. We are (slowly but surely) building a cookbook of random encounters and recipes, from those dinners (and one lunch).

At the end of our stay one of the persons who invited us for lunch suggested that we do something at Skånes Konstförening, the gallery where that person was (is still) working. We ended up making a cooking performance – goulash for about 20 people – and we projected a new video piece made in Malmö (mainly with water images, animals and a text).

But see, our stay in Malmö changed our lives. First of all, we liked the city a lot - it is Swedish and Nordic (because of its efficient architecture and its bike lanes), yet it is not predominantly filled with blond Swedes in black clothing (this was our cliché, sorry) – it is a lot less white, straight, cis, thin than we could have imagined, and it is not richy rich like Stockholm (yet it looks nothing like our city, Bucharest, where one can still make poverty tourism, nor like Berlin's hipster cool poverty).

Second of all, one of us all of a sudden got a job there – so, as we write this to you, we are already preparing our move to Malmö. Strange, but we did feel like home there almost from the beginning (except for some culture shock mostly related to bikes and contrasts, but that is a too long story to tell).

Some random advice from us (not related to art): go often to the garbage and recycling sorting station of the apartment building where you will be hosted. You can find lots of stuff there (we found lots of stuff). Do not crumple beer, juice cans or plastic bottles. Just live them in trash containers or even (discreetly) on the margins of more circulated streets. Go to the market towards end of the day. Go to Mirornas. Eat falafel in the Möllan area (also in Rosengård Centrum, super delicious). Don't buy the cheap beer in supermarkets it is really really (really) bad – and we are not fussy persons. Buy strawberry flavored cider instead. City bikes are great but also a little heavy. Take the worm (bus number 5) for a trip across the city. Try going to a Plan B party (we never managed to get to one because of the huge crowd).

We hope that helps and we are looking forward to meet you as well when you come to Malmö.

Best

Simona&Ramona