

Performance artists from Chicago featured at Lönnström Home Museum



Performance: Scarecrow (work-in-progress), Captiva, Florida, December 2016.
Photo courtesy of The Robert Rauschenberg Foundation

The gallery space at Teresia and Rafael Lönnström Home Museum will host an international artist talk on Saturday, **1 July 2017, starting at 14.30**, with performance artists **Lin Hixson** and **Matthew Goulish** from Chicago. They will talk about their project, *Every house has a door*, and their latest collaboration with Finnish performance artist **Essi Kausalainen**. The title of their joint project is *Scarecrow*.

“The theme of *Scarecrow* is the boundary between the human and the non-human. In our research for the project we have studied snails, slime fungus, monarch butterflies and heliotropes, plants that follow the sun,” says Kausalainen. The boundary between human and non-human is present already in the title of the project, *Scarecrow*. A scarecrow may look human, but it is not.

The collaboration that began last December has been characterised by fun and a sense of play, but also by a highly systematic and organised work. “Lin and Matthew are so accustomed to working with different artists that it was easy for me to slip in,” says Kausalainen.

Lin Hixson is director and professor of performance at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Matthew Goulish is dramaturg and professor of writing in the same institute. *Every house has a door* was launched by Hixson and Goulish in 2008. It is a project that convenes different teams to create performances. The teams have included internationally famous artists as well as emerging talent. The performances combine texts with installation, motion and music. The current collaboration, *Scarecrow*, is created with performance artist Essi Kausalainen, who also serves as a mentor in **Hautumo**, a performance art support programme launched in Rauma.

The event is organised jointly by the Lönnström Art Museum and the Hautumo mentoring programme of Live Art Development Agency Finland. Hautumo is a pilot programme for supporting career development and internationalisation of professional artists in the Satakunta region. Running throughout 2017, the programme is conducted with **Marika Räty**, regional artist in Satakunta.

A meeting with the artists will be held at the Teresia and Rafael Lönnström Home Museum on Saturday 1 July 2017 at 14.30. The meeting language is English and it is free admission.