

Index

Beth Laurin: PROVISORIUM

16 September–3 December 2017

Opening: 15 September, 17:30–21:00



Index is proud to present an extensive solo exhibition by Swedish artist Beth Laurin (born 1935 in Stockholm). Since the 1960s, the artist has developed an impressive body of work which isn't easily classified. It includes sculpture, drawing, performance, sound, text, photography and video, and often incorporates found objects, personal materials, texts and newspaper clippings that are used with a resonance of associations and potential meanings. Beth Laurin's work has developed in correspondence with political movements, such as early feminism, but with a highly idiosyncratic approach which appears extremely contemporary until today. Reinventing and reconfiguring her practice, changing formats and testing things, often with humor, is in Beth Laurin's oeuvre a way to systematically investigate and challenge the question of what can be done with art.

The exhibition at Index will present a selection of works from the past decades that give an insight into the working methodology of the artist. Works in the exhibition include a series of large sculptures, based on objects found on the street and in nature, which are carefully reproduced in different media and with metallic surfaces, and drawings that, in several steps, enlarge details from fingerprints in exquisite pencil and charcoal drawings. The artist's interest in the transformation of objects that carry a personal meaning, through shifts in material, size or context, will be further documented in a selection of documents, photographs, collages and drawings.

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Index

Beth Laurin has exhibited continuously throughout the years, and her works are part of some of the most important public collections in Sweden, but have rarely been shown on an international scale in which her work clearly requires to be discussed. The title of the exhibition, *Provisorium*, was initially taken from one of the many notes of hers that Laurin keeps in a collection, reading "Livet är ett provisorium" (Life is provisional). As a title, it points to the fact that even as a retrospective exhibition, it will still only represent a temporary state of how the materials and objects assemble that the artist has produced and gathered.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a publication with new contributions by Josefine Wikström and Jaleh Mansoor, and a text by Leif Elggren.

Beth Laurin has studied sculpture at Konstfack and Kungl. Konsthögskolan in Stockholm. She exhibited widely in Sweden, most recently at Moderna Museet (2003), Konstakademien (2009) and Galleri Riis (2016) in Stockholm. Her work was featured in the recent issue of OEI #75–76 : *NATURBEGREPPET [EKOEI]*. She is the recipient of the City of Stockholm's Culture Price 2017 (Stockholms Stads Hederspris 2017).

Opening hours

Wednesday–Friday 12am–6pm, Saturday - Sunday 12am–4pm

Monday, Tuesday and Public Holidays (Red Days) closed

Social Media: @indexstockholm #bethlaurin

Index is supported by Kulturrådet, Stockholm Stad and Stockholms Läns Landsting.

Image credit: Beth Laurin: *Skiss till Vad händer med Terrassen?*, 1977, pencil on paper

About Index

Index is based in the centre of Stockholm and offers an ambitious program of exhibitions, events and learning activities for a wide range of audiences. The program includes emerging artists with specifically produced new work, alongside presentations by artists from previous generations shown in a new perspective. Larger projects are accompanied by an extensive public program, often produced in collaboration with other organizations in Stockholm and abroad, with talks and film screenings, music, dance and poetry events. Index takes risks and opens up various ways to encounter contemporary culture and debate. Celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2015, Index is today one of the most important and longest-standing spaces for contemporary art in Scandinavia.