



**Artistic Practice - with visual artist Jens Settergren:  
“I’m hacking my way into contemporary reality and image  
production”**

Jens Settergren's process, practice and art are investigating the image's power and technology's being. This is transpiring through an unusually extensive variation of material choices and forms of expression that are related to people's notions about the world in the age of images.

At the Roskilde Festival, an embryo, which is constantly and continuously being transformed from a green digital grid into a human being, rendered in flesh and blood. A 200-metre long and winding *Galaksesti* [Galaxy Pathway] which – with granite and mosaic tiles – reveals the cosmological teachings about the universe that run across time and geography.

Mirrors, fallen leaves, stones and ghosts, which impart to the machines their own magical and invisible agency. Flying cyborg-pigeons that, just like algorithms, gather information about what it means to be human.

As an inter-disciplinary artist, Jens Settergren is working with sculptures, installations, and video works as he poses questions about collective fantasies, science fiction and the mythologies of our current time.

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*"I regard my art as a mode of re-negotiating existing narratives when I, through my image production, hack my way into the inherent layers of meaning in order to dissect the image-formation's connection to power, desire and technology,"* explains Jens Settergren.

Watch the new film "Artistic Practice with Jens Settergren", [here](#).

### **The manipulative power of the image in the age of technology**

What's happening when we turn our attention to the elementary substance of being human in an accelerating digital world? How are the objects and images by which we are surrounded play a part in evoking and shaping particular ideas about the world? And how do human being express fear, desire and dreams, while we develop new technologies and machines?

These are questions that Jens Settergren is examining - also in the new film, in which the artist met, back in February 2022, Marianna Vecellio, one of the curators working at Castello di Rivoli in Turin, at Kunsthal Charlottenborg in Copenhagen.

*"Through the use of sculpture, sound, found footage, language and video, Jens Settergren develops immersive installations that explore the role of the image and the power of manipulation in a technoliberal society. Since the early stage of his investigative process, he recounts the human being's positions as individual and collective agent and investigates a new notion of subjectivity, which embodies digital technology and nature, opening up to an inspirational practice of liberation and new sense of awareness",* says Marianna Vecellio.

Jens Settergren has been singled out for inclusion in the Bikubenfondens "Artistic Practice" program for particularly promising artistic practices.

*"Jens Settergren draws the viewer right into the future's utterly decisive questions when he combines everyday objects with essentially different expressions like glass mosaics and computer animations. With his quest to understand and depict the human being's need to construct complex worldviews, he is sending us in the direction of the future's cosmic narratives,"* says Mette Marcus, director of the Bikubenfondens.

Watch the new film "Artistic Practice with Jens Settergren" [here](#).

### **About Jens Settergren**

Jens Settergren (born in 1989) graduated from the Jutland Academy of Fine Arts in 2016. Collective pictorial formations, science fiction and contemporary mythologies are focal points in visual artist Jens Settergren's art practice. He frequently makes use of 'ready-mades' (articles of everyday use), such as existing 3D figures from online archives, mass-produced objects and advertising stills, which he reworks and processes – in his sculptures, installations and video works – and manages to set into new situational contexts. By

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working in this way, Settergren explores underlying meanings encoded in pictures, objects, and languages.

In large-scale total installations, he works with themes like nature, escapism, and technology. He is especially preoccupied with the radical notions and pictorial formations that the accelerating technology in our Western society gives rise to.

### **Current exhibitions**

Jens Settergren is currently showing work at OK Corral in Copenhagen, and he is currently presenting a solo exhibition, PROTOTYPE, at Anton Rosen Huset, on the island of Samsø. He has just completed the permanently installed decoration project, NUKLEUS, at Samsø School. In January 2023, his work will be on view, in a solo exhibition, at Gas9Gallery.

Read more about Jens Settergren's work [here](#).

### **Centrally positioned works**

COGNIZER, 2022

PROTOTYPE, 2022

Incubator, 2022

GhostBlind Loading, 2021

Worldbuilding, 2021

Monster Soup, 2021

Galakstien, 2021

The GPS Will Take Me Home, 2019

### **About Marianna Vecellio**

Marianna Vecellio is a curator and art historian. She has been educated in art history, with a concentration on modern art and contemporary art, at La Sapienza University in Rome. She was employed at The Castle of Rivoli in Turin in 2007, and since 2012, she has been one of the curators at its museum, Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea. Vecellio is creating exhibitions and publications for Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, where she places special emphasis on studies of subjectivity in the digital society – including a focus on ecology, the posthuman, an exploration of new forms of coexistence, and the transformation of the living.

### **About Artistic Practice**

Artistic Practice is a close-up-to-the-person and close-up-to-the-work film-portrait of a Danish artist, artist duo or group with particularly promising practice and potentials. Bikubenfonden is making Artistic Practice available to artists as a link in an internationalization of Danish art. The purpose is to contribute to elevating and strengthening the artists' visibility in their ongoing careers.

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Artistic Practice, featuring Jens Settergren, has been produced by Mads Hoppe film, for Bikubenfonden.

Read more about Artistic Practice [here](#).

**Upcoming artists in the Artistic Practice series:**

Visual artist Marie Munk  
Visual artist Linda Lamingnan  
Set designer Nathalie Mellbye  
Director Anja Behrens  
Set designer and artist Sif Freya Hestnes

**Previous releases in the Artistic Practice series:**

[Artiststudio HOW TO KILL A DOG](#)  
[Artistic leader Marie Lydie Nokouda](#)  
[Visual artist Jakob Kudsk Steensen](#)  
[The artist duo Astrup and Bordorff](#)  
[Choreographer and creator Gunilla Lind](#)  
[Theater director Sargun Oshana](#)  
[Visual artist Alexander Tillegreen](#)  
[Visual artist Hannibal Andersen](#)  
[Artist and choreographer Jules Fischer](#)  
[Choreographer Hilde I. Sandvold](#)  
[Set designer and costume designer Ida Grarup](#)

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