

Kunsthall Trondheim proudly
presents a new solo exhibition
by Liv Bugge

Umbilical Fire



Liv Bugge, *Umbilical Fire*, 2025. Video stills. Photo: Kristoffer Archetti Stølen. Courtesy the artist.

Opening 4 April 2025



Kunsthall Trondheim



Hannah
Ryggen
Triennale

Liv Bugge

Umbilical Fire

4 April – 16 September 2025

In *Umbilical Fire*, Norwegian artist Liv Bugge explores the subtle yet profound connections linking energy, desire, and reproduction across human and non-human realms. Anchored by a newly commissioned film and installation, the artist challenges our perceptions of these integrated themes to ask: How do our energy concepts mirror our understanding of eroticism, sex, and nature?

The exhibition's scenography surrounds the film, immersing visitors in a striking landscape of 3D-printed clay sculptures. These sculptures reveal underwater oil field environments across Norway, both literally and metaphorically exposing what lies beneath the surface. Through this combination, Bugge exposes energy companies' attempts at "greenwashing" and "purplewashing," including naming oil sources after feminist and folkloric figures.

Umbilical Fire is part of the 2025 edition of the Hannah Ryggen Triennale, a collaborative project across several Trondheim art institutions exploring the topic of "mater"—the Latin word for mother—which connects biological motherhood to our cultural heritage and physical world, reflecting how deeply the maternal is woven into our language through words like "matter," "material," and "mother earth." Mining these subjects, *Umbilical Fire* features a symbolic nautical rope spun from sheep and dog wool, weaving together narratives of oil as modernity's "mother's milk," Bugge's personal history of being raised in a family including sled dogs, and the legacy of artist Hannah Ryggen, and her politically engaged tapestries.

Umbilical Fire is supported by Bergesenstiftelsen, The Fritt Ord Foundation, SpareBank1 SMN Samfunnsutbytte, Sparebankstiftelsen – SMN, Arts and Culture Norway, The Audio and Visual Fund – Fond for lyd og bilde, Norwegian Visual Artists Fund – Billedkunstneres Vederlagsfond, and Oslo National Academy of the Arts.

Umbilical Fire is curated by Adam Kleinman and Katrine Elise Agpalza Pedersen.



Liv Bugge, *Frigg*, 2024. Clay on paper, 55 × 45 cm. Courtesy the artist.



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About the artist

Liv Bugge lives and works in Oslo, where she teaches at the Oslo National Academy of the Arts. In 2019, she completed her PhD thesis *The Other Wild: Touching Art as Confrontation*. Through objects, film, and collective exercises, her work explores how society perpetuates normative ideas within perceived dichotomies like life/non-life and humanity/nature.



Liv Bugge. Photo: Kajsa Dahlberg

”In Liv Bugge’s work, a dangerous dance between industrial hunger and nature’s reproductive cycles emerges through layers of crude and organic materiality, capturing the paradox of our time: the very forces sustaining our present are those devouring our future.”

Adam Kleinman, Director Kunsthall Trondheim



Kunsthall Trondheim



Hannah
Ryggen
Triennale

Hannah Ryggen Triennale at Kunsthall Trondheim

Acid Prints
Body Framed
Hidden Mother

4 April–25 May, 2025
5 June–13 July, 2025
24 July–14 September, 2025



Stig Gjerstadli with an acid print. Photo: Kunsthall Trondheim



Yuliya Antonova, *Body Framed*, 2023, film still.
Courtesy the artist



Photo: Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Complimenting Liv Bugge's solo exhibition *Umbilical Fire* during the Hannah Ryggen Triennale at Kunsthall Trondheim are three rotating mini-exhibitions: 1) *Acid Prints* reveals ghostly images transferred from artworks onto frame backings during decades of display in Norwegian homes; 2) *Body Framed*, a film essay by Yuliya Antonova featuring intimate interviews that explore women's relationships with their bodies; 3) *Hidden Mothers* presents striking 19th-century portraits where mothers were obscured while holding their children still for the camera, highlighting their unseen but vital presence.

The rotating mini-exhibitions are curated by Adam Kleinman and Joe Rowley.

The Hannah Ryggen Triennale is initiated by Nordenfjeldske Kunstindustrimuseum. Collaborating institutions are Dropsfabrikken, Kjøpmannsgata Ung Kunst (K-U-K), Kunsthall Trondheim, Trondheim kunstmuseum, Trøndelag senter for samtidskunst, and Ørland/Bjugn Kunstforening.

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About Kunsthall Trondheim

Kunsthall Trondheim is the largest international arena for contemporary art in Trondheim and the Trøndelag region. Kunsthall Trondheim produces exhibitions and programs that reflect our globalised society, problematise normative gender roles and sexual identity, and highlight marginalised artistic positions and artists that have not yet been exhibited in Trøndelag. During the period of 2020-2025, we focus on knowledge production through interdisciplinary and artistic research, dialogue with science and technology, sustainability, health, and climate by contributing artistic perspectives to these fields.

Kunsthall Trondheim opened its doors to the public in 2016 in the former fire station in downtown Trondheim, after a three-year pilot period in a temporary space. Kunsthall Trondheim was founded on initiative of Trondheim kommune and Trøndelag fylkeskommune, who, alongside Ministry of Culture and Equality, are our main funders. We regularly collaborate with our neighbours in the cultural quarter as well as with other actors in the city, region, and international partners.

Kunsthall Trondheim
Kongens gate 2
7011 Trondheim
Norway
www.kunsthalltrondheim.no/eng

Thursday–Friday 2 pm–6 pm
Saturday–Sunday 12 pm–4 pm
Free entry



TRONDHEIM KOMMUNE



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Trøndelag fylkeskommune
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Kulturdirektoratet



Kunsthall Trondheim



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