

## *Theia*

Marie Nerland

25th May - 11th August 2024

With: Mette Edvardsen, Jiska Huizing, Andrea Sørli Barrett, Mariama Fatou Kalley Slåttøy, Icaro Zorbar

Curated by Mathijs van Geest.

The project *Theia* by the Trondheim based artist Marie Nerland consists of an exhibition, several performances and an upcoming publication. *Theia* is inspired by a widely acclaimed hypothesis about how the moon came into existence. It suggests that billions of years ago a large planet from the early solar system, sometimes described as a sibling planet to Earth, collided with the Earth with immense impact. While parts of Theia integrated with Earth's body, a large piece of the planet got caught in Earth's orbit, becoming the Moon as we know it today.

To speak of the event that birthed our moon rather than destroyed an entire planet, suggests a hopeful narrative about the journey of objects and how they are altered in multiple and complex ways, through changing circumstances and sometimes clashes. Building upon this story of collision, the exhibition and its associated events are based around the motif of encounter, threading through both objects and artistic practices.

The installation shown in the HKS gallery space consists mainly of found objects and architectural structures used to support previous exhibitions, gathered from various art institutions in and around Bergen, such as plinths, benches and left-over wall structures. When they come together, these individual pieces each with their scars and damages - otherwise discarded or stored away - form a tableau of memories and past events.

Nerland has invited several artists to take part in the project. The performance she has developed for *Theia* is co-created with and performed by the dancer Andrea Sørli Barrett. The artists Icaro Zorbar and Mette Edvardsen have both been invited to present a newly produced performance piece, which will be presented in the gallery space during the last weekend of the exhibition.

The Oslo based artist Jiska Huizing has also been invited by Nerland to create a new work, an audio piece that adds sound to the installation and exhibition space. This work, combined with a recording of the performer Mariama Slåttøy reading a text written by Nerland, resonates through the gallery space in a loop.

A video work and a series of photographs showing an eclectic selection of objects yet all belonging to the same life, are dispersed throughout the exhibition space, integrated in the installation. Like going through someone's moving boxes studying their belongings, these images - moving and still - provide a sense of how the past and the present are tangled up in one another. Seen as a whole *Theia* seems to ponder the question: What is a memory?

## Bios

**Marie Nerland** is a Norwegian artist and curator who has studied political science, comparative literature, and holds an MA degree in Theatre Studies from the University of Bergen and a MA-level degree in curatorial practice from the Bergen Academy of Art and Design. Her artistic practice focuses on performance and text-based work, often made in collaboration with other artists. Nerland is the founder of Volt, a long-term, Bergen-based curatorial project that focuses on commissioning and presenting new contemporary artworks by practitioners working across a diverse range of media. Since 2019 Nerland has been part of the long-term project *The Wetland Pavilion* – an initiative based in and around Oslo's Østensjøvannet nature reserve.

Her most recent projects are *Machine Membranes*, with Nayara Leite and Mari Kvien Brunvoll, at Lydgalleriet (2023); *Reveries*, with Icaro Zorbar, at Oppland Kunstsenter, Lillehammer (2022); *Lyset midt i oktober* at Paviljong Våtmark, Østensjøvannet, Oslo (2022); *Echolocation* at P//// AKT, Amsterdam (2019); *Signposts* Tromsø at Small Projects, Tromsø (2019); *Signpost* at Hordaland Kunstsenter (2018), all three in collaboration with Nickel van Duijvenboden; and a lecture performance at Landmark, Bergen Kunsthall (2017).

**Icaro Zorbar** is an Oslo-based artist from Bogotá, Colombia. He has an MA from the Art Academy in Bergen in 2017. His work is rooted in questions about the fragile human attempt to survive time. Memories and technology are closely linked. He seeks to formulate narratives in poetic circumstances through the intervention of devices, sound, and video. He has recently shown work at Vestlandsutstillingen 2022, Oppland Kunstsenter, Lydgalleriet, Modern Art Museum in Bogota, Osnabrück Kunsthalle, and the Lyon Biennale.

**Mette Edvardsen** has an artistic practice situated within the performing arts field as a choreographer and performer. Although some of her works explore other media or other formats, such as video, books

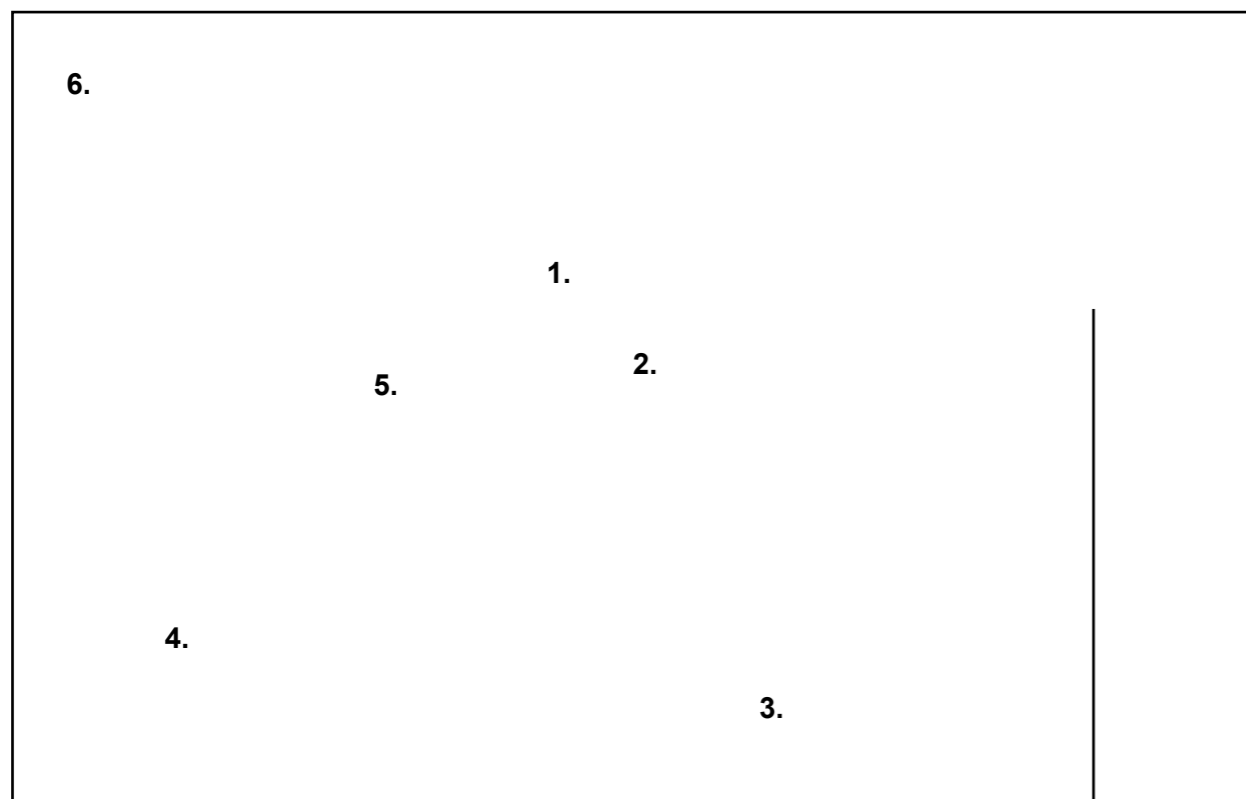
and writing, her interest is always in their relationship to the performing arts as a practice and a situation. She has worked since 1994 as a dancer and performer for a number of companies and projects, and develops her own work since 2002. She presents her works internationally and continues to develop projects with other artists, both as a collaborator and as a performer.

**Jiska Huizing** is a Dutch artist living and working in Oslo, Norway. Working with sound, photography, artist books, text and guided walks, they create work that contains a sense of searching and wandering, and that questions the ways in which we perceive our surroundings. Huizing holds an MA from the Bergen Academy of Arts and Design. Their work has been presented at amongst others Van Etten, Lydgalleriet, RUMMUR\_radio, Vestlandsutstillingen 2019, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Zagreb, Academy Minerva and HIAP, Helsinki.

**Andrea Sørli Barrett** is a Norwegian-Canadian dancer based in Oslo. She graduated from the Oslo National Academy of the Arts in 2021 with a BA in Contemporary Dance. Since then she has worked as a performer in projects with choreographers such as Tendai Makurumbandi, Tormod Midtbø, Ingri Fiksdal and Fieldworks.

**Mariama Fatou Kalley Slåttøy** is educated at the Oslo National Academy of the Arts and holds a BA degree in Performing Dance. She works within the field of independent performing arts as well as at institutional theatres, and has worked with choreographers, directors and artists such as Ingri Fiksdal, Fredrik Floen, Eline Arbo, Ole Martin Meland and Jon Tombre. She has been involved in a number of theater productions, musicals as well as film and TV projects - developing and producing her own and others' dance short films, and as a dancer and actor.

The exhibition is supported by Bergen Municipality and Vederlagsfondet.



1. Marie Nerland  
*Theia* (installation) (2024)  
 Installation built of borrowed exhibition elements  
 Co-creator installation design: Gabriel Johann Kvendseth

2. Marie Nerland  
*Theia* (photographs) (2024)  
 Photographs, digital print and C-print  
 Dimensions variable

3. Marie Nerland  
*Theia* (audio) (2024)  
 Reading of a text  
 Duration: 6:13 min.  
  
 Text: Marie Nerland  
 Reading: Mariama Fatou Kalley Slåttøy  
 Sound recording: Jiska Huizing

*Theia* is played alternately with *Tiden bretter seg* (Huizing), with silence in between.  
 An English translation by Siri Fuglseth is available in the exhibition.

4. Marie Nerland  
*Theia* (video)  
 Duration: 09:43 min.  
 Photo and editing: Tobias Liljedahl

An English translation by Siri Fuglseth is available in the exhibition.

5. Marie Nerland and Andrea Sørli Barrett  
*Theia* (performance) (2024)  
 Length: ca 20 min.  
 Shown 25 and 26 May 2024

6. Jiska Huizing  
*Tiden bretter seg* (2024)  
 Audio  
 5 tracks à 6 min., played in a loop throughout the exhibition's opening hours.

Tracks:  
 - *Dawn at Nøklevann 1*, Oslo (5 May 2024)  
 - *Dawn at Nøklevann 2*, Oslo (5 May 2024)  
 - *Middle of the day*, Langeboschemeer, Wildervank (16 May 2024)  
 - *Dusk by Langeboschemeer*, Wildervank (20 July 2021)  
 - *Dusk by Mantingerveld*, Mantinge (20 July 2021)

*Tiden bretter seg* is played alternately with *Theia* (sound work, Nerland), with silence in between.

Thank you to Bergen Assembly, Kunsthall 3,14, and Oseana Art & Cultural Centre for lending out the exhibition elements.

The publication produced as part of *Theia* will be released towards the end of 2025.

**Program during the opening weekend**

**Saturday 25th May**

13:00: Performance by Marie Nerland and Andrea Sørli Barrett

**Sunday 25th May**

12:00: Performance by Marie Nerland and Andrea Sørli Barrett

13:00: Performance by Marie Nerland and Andrea Sørli Barrett

**Program during the closing weekend**

**Friday 9th August**

18:00: Performance lecture by Marie Nerland

**Saturday 10th August**

16:00: Performance by Icaro Zorbar

17:00: Performance by Mette Edvardsen

18:00: Kitchen Dinner

**Sunday 11th August**

8:00 Morning session: Sound piece by Jiska Huizing

More information about these events will be announced at [www.kunstsenter.no](http://www.kunstsenter.no).