

#viärhär

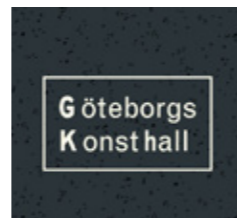


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GÖTEBORG
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Hela stadens galleri är en del av Göteborgs 400-årsjubileum. Denna utställning med 100 sidor bor runt om i Göteborgs tio stadsdelar. Med olika teman, i delar eller som helhet, kommer den ge ett avtryck av staden hela vägen fram till 2021.
The Urban Gallery of Gothenburg is an exhibition, of and by the city's ten districts, that is part of Gothenburg's 400th anniversary.



Peter Nylund, MFA Fine Arts, HDK-Valand 2021



#viärhär is a community-based multimedia project made in collaboration with Göteborgs Konsthall, Göteborg & Co., and the Office of City Planning of Gothenburg city. The project placed newly arrived and foreign-born LGBTQI+ persons in center. It is a project that values collaboration from beginning to end, and strives to build an expanding platform for marginalized and otherwise unheard voices to tell their stories in public space.

The project is based on a collaboration between photography and participants' personal artistic expressions. From poetry to film, from digital processes to photography, a blend of personalities, skills, cultures and talents are driving this project.

From the belief that the city will benefit from increased diversity and inclusion, to Gothenburg we want to exhibit the wealth in experience and creativity that is a large part of this often invisible and forgotten community. It is a way to say:

we are here

NEWCOMERS
Göteborg



Background:

I moved from Sweden to Los Angeles in 2004, and returned to Gothenburg in summer 2019 to begin an education in Fine art at the Valand Academy. After touching down I was searching for my community. I was surprised of the lack of queer spaces and gathering places in a country and city that on paper (and during a week in June when the annual WestPride celebrations take place) announces itself as very LGBTQI+ friendly.

After having come in contact with RFSL I began as a volunteer for the Newcomers program and learned that this is a truly remarkable group of persons who possess incredible creative talent. After having learned of the marginalized and often invisible state these individuals are forced to live under, I saw the necessity to somehow display the wealth of creative talent and will to life of this group to this city, and to state their presence in order to be seen how they want to be seen.

Photo workshop with participants from
RFSL Newcomers/Newcomers Youth summer 2020

The project is based on a digital workshop where each participant artistically responds to the question:

-what do you want Gothenburg and Sweden to know about you, your situation and experience in both getting here and being here?

The goal is to actively promote the artistic expression of each participant. The choice of what kind of expression is specific to each participant, as the group possesses a wide array of talents and skills, ranging from photo to video, digital art processes and poetry.



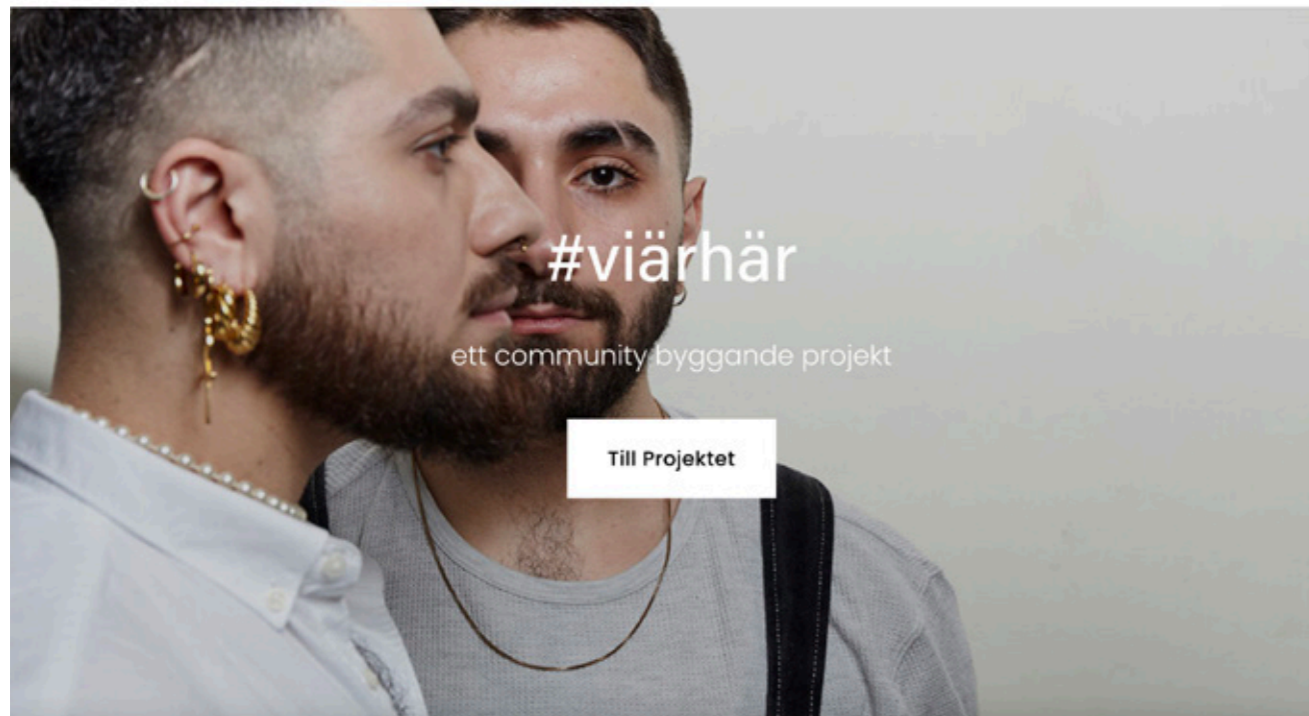
Development

The project is formed in five stages:

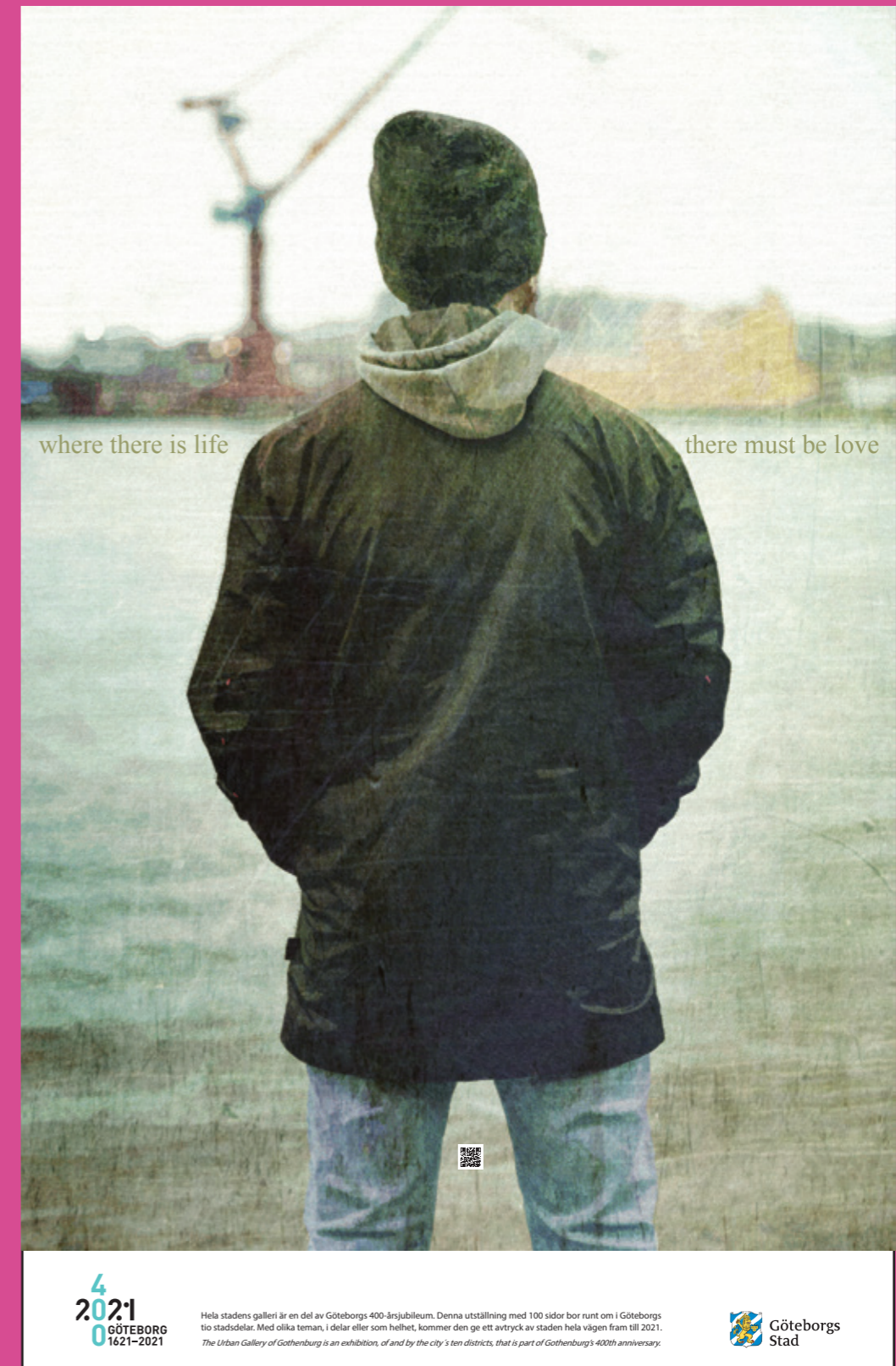
1. Workshop and website development
2. Making of portraits for posters
3. Exhibition
4. Data gathering and analysis
5. Panel Discussion scheduled to take place during WestPride 2021

#viärhär

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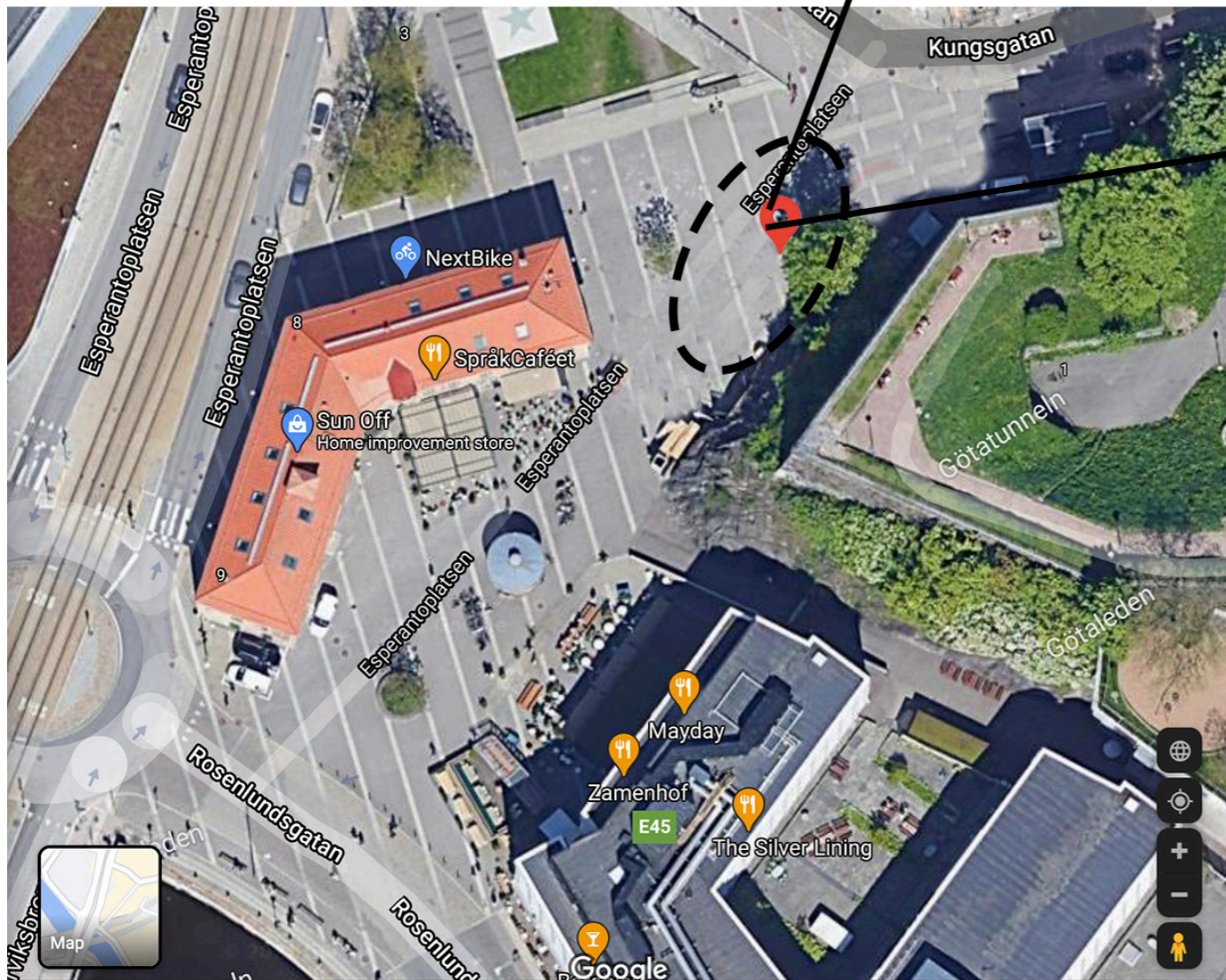


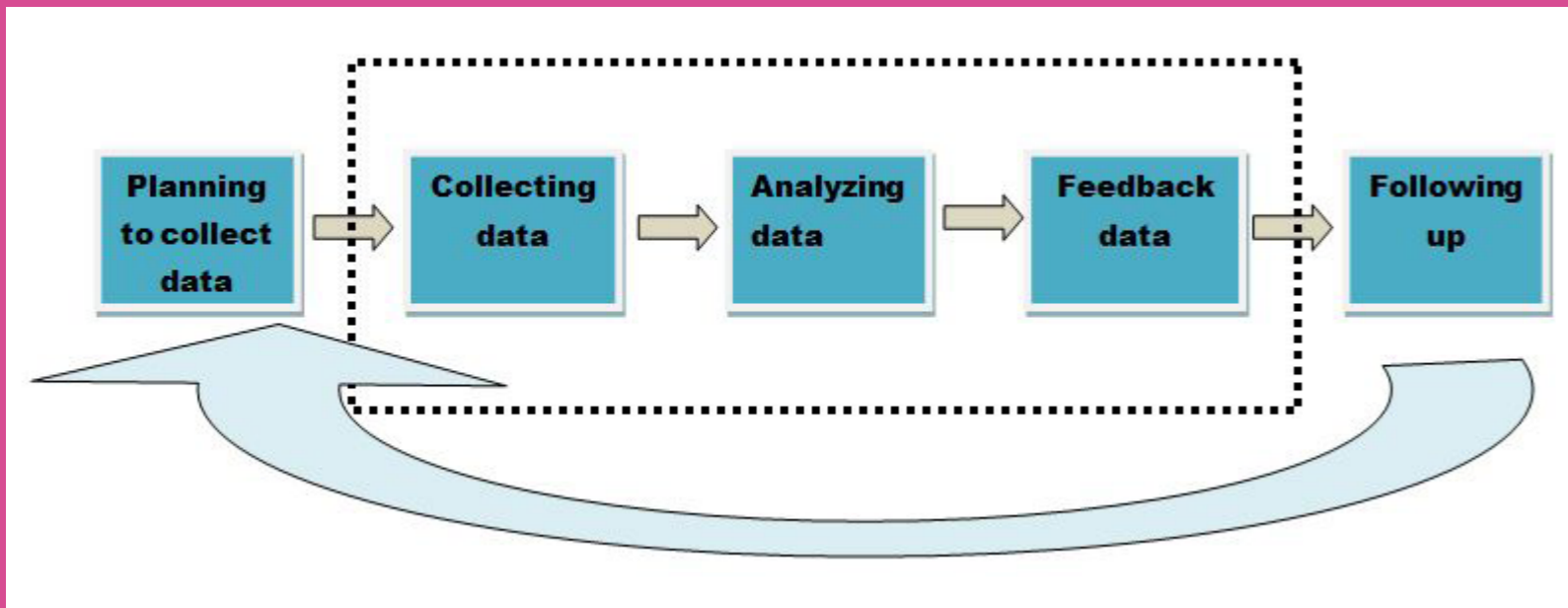
Step 1: Through a workshop that meets digitally as well as with personal assistance if needed, every participant will develop an artistic expression that will be presented together on a website. The participants will have full insight and say in how their image and art work will be used and presented. The goal is that the participants will create, through photo, text, video, poetry, or sound recording, their own personal way of telling their story.



Step 2: As entry point to the website, participants' portrait, or their own artwork be printed in large poster size. Each photo or image will have a QR code attached to it that links to their work on the website.

Step 3: Posters with portraits or artwork will be exhibited between May 8-26 2021 at Esperanto-platsen in central Gothenburg. The place is chosen due to the history and importance of the place for the local LGBTQ+ community. Passers by will be able to reach each participant's work by scanning the QR codes with their smartphone.





Step 4:
Data gathering from the website traffic and QR codes are collected and analyzed.



Step 5:
In August 2021 there will be a reconnection with workshop participants and other civil society actors for a panel discussion in connection to WestPride 2021 about the need for queer safe spaces in the city.

collaborative self portraiture

Over the course of the last two years, I've been searching for ways of addressing the issue of photography as a tool for the reproduction of racial and sexual stereotypes, and in this work I've also been looking for ways of contesting the White Gaze.

Having spent this time asking how I can engage with questioning my own gaze -that even if it may be queer, it is still a white gaze- I've developed a set of strategies in order to disturb it, to subvert it. One of these strategies have sought to disrupt the power relation between photographer and sitter/subject by handing over the shutter click that freezes time for 1/125 of a second to the sitter. What makes this strategy interesting for this purpose, is that by taking the famed "decisive moment" away from the photographer, the power relation in the making of the image (or what we might call the "photographic situation") is renegotiated. However, being aware of the fact that a simple "handing over" of a button click does not steer the process enough in the direction of leveling the power relation in the photographic situation, I have attempted various expansions to this technique of power-sharing, or power-disruption. In these experiments, the aim has been to broaden the sharing of decision making beyond just the "decisive moment" and share with the sitter more of the decisions in the making of their image. This process strives to be dialogic and collaborative from beginning to end, and in these research experiments which I have come to call "collaborative self-portraits," the apparent tension between self-portraiture and collaboration is brought to the forefront.

