

Love and War

-personal stories from a country at war



Test of projection at the National War Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark, 2024

**A documentary work of light and sound,
containing Ukrainian voices,
poetic drawings and animations**

Ole Samsøe og Jakob Fälling 2023-24



Tests, Copenhagen 2024

Julia, 37, was hysterically fighting her husband's decision to join the Ukrainian army shortly after the Russian invasion. Without any luck. She recently visited him at the frontline for a day and a night because they want to have a child. She has no idea when his next leave will be.

39-year-old Alexandr sat in a basement in Irpin on the third day of the invasion, paralyzed by fear, with his wife and two children. They managed to get out just before the Russians took the village, and their displacement led them to Lviv, back to Kiev and recently to Norway as refugees. They are bringing their newborn son, Andrij.

The population in Europe has developed news fatigue regarding the war in Ukraine. 50% of respondents in a new survey often or sometimes avoid news from this war. Maybe because the news stories about weapon donations, strategy and the number of dead? The art installation "Love and War" creates an alternative focus on war, zooming in on personal narratives and consequences of the Russian invasion.

The artwork was developed for the facade of the national Danish War Museum and the show is scheduled to open at the Copenhagen Light Festival in February 2024. The work investigates and presents the subject via poetic drawings, animations and sound. The installation will be on display every night during the light festival, which will run most of February. The work is prepared for display on other building facades in Denmark and abroad. This presentation introduces the work process, the artwork and a possible display abroad.

The project elaborated:

Can love thrive in a shelter? Can lovers hold on to each other when one spouse travels to the front and the other must seek safety outside the country? What does it mean to lose your chosen one? Can you manage to get married on half a day's leave?

While the news from the war in Ukraine is about death, bombs and weapon donations, the Ukrainian people are facing a different reality. They have to live on. It involves falling in love, getting married, divorced and being worried about one's loved one.

This project seeks to get closer to the reality of war by focusing on love as a general aspect of human life. The stories of romantic love between two people become a prism that makes it easier to understand the

horrors of war, even for ordinary people outside the war zone. The ambition is that the personal experiences of the sources are so recognizable to everyone else that the spectators will learn something universal about living and surviving an extreme crisis. The work thus becomes both tragic, hopeful, funny and serious. The work is created in English but can be translated into other languages. The more than 120 drawings and animations as well as six selected stories take a total of approx. 20 minutes to experience. You can start watching whenever, as the total installation loops.

Method: We have collected an extensive material by interviewing 15 sources in Ukraine on a trip to Lviv and Kyiv in the fall of 2023. Here, we have also collected reportage drawings from the mentioned cities and portrait drawings of the sources. This material is blended into a sound-light art installation, which creates a surprising and subtle encounter between urban space, the theme, art and other people's voices/reality.

Experience: We have previously worked with this method in similar projection mapping art works for e.g. Roskilde Cathedral and other institutions in Denmark. Over the past four years, the works have been shown on a variety of building facades for city festivals, light festivals and the Copenhagen Light Festival. Our art installations have been well visited and have received effusive feedback from host institutions, festival managements and guests.

The common feedback is that the work appeals widely. Most people can understand the imagery and identify with the stories they hear. At light festivals, our artworks stand out by having a reflective and storytelling layer beneath the aesthetically striking surface. Finally, the experience of an art installation in the urban space brings people together.

Collaboration: The work is created with the support of the War Museum and the Copenhagen Light Festival. Our work group consists of Jakob Fälling (artistically responsible) and Ole Samsøe (technically responsible). Nelly Klos, based in Lviv, contributes as a local fixer. We take care of all parts of the process – idea, visuality, sound, artistic curation plus technical equipment and execution. The latter may be solved locally.

We offer:

- Outdoor or indoor display in winter 2024 or autumn/winter 24/25
- Additional art talk (“Art and Storytelling matters in times of crisis”)
- Additional exhibition of reportage drawings on paper from Ukraine.

It requires:

-A suitable projection location, preferably outdoors, The artwork is designed to be shown at one facade, wide format (approximately 16:9). Alternatively, it can be tailored to your needs (up to three facades). Love and War can also be displayed inside a gallery, theatre or cinema indoor.

-220 v power outlet.

-A financial agreement. Please get in touch so we can talk about the needs and expectations of your venue.



Tests, Copenhagen 2024

C.V. Jakob Fälling, www.falling.dk

Illustrator, writer, freelance journalist

Born 1972. Master in Geography and Philosophy

Artist in the EU-funded art project Augmented Reality Tales of War and Peace, 2023-2024

Writer of 11 books for major Danish publishers, Gyldendal, L&R, People's Press etc. 2011-2023

Illustrator of three books 2021-2023

Workshops, conferences og courses in narrative non fiction storytelling and drawing in Denmark, Poland, Greenland and Norway 2015-2023

Projection works

Kulturens kerne, Akademikertårnet Frederiksberg, Kulturnatten 2023

-About the value (and devaluation) of culture, art and culture work in Denmark.

Paradistræer og Stjernesvær, Roskilde Domkirke Unesco World Heritage Day 2023

Krigens skygger, Kyndelmisse Køge 2023.

-About the psychological impact of war in Europe.

KÆRE GUD, Helligaandskirken Church, Copenhagen Light Festival 2023.

-About praying and religious practice, even for atheists

Stjernesvær, Roskilde Cathedral at Unesco World Heritage Day, 2022

-Portraying religious art from 1420

KÆRE GUD, Himmelske Dage i Roskilde, 2022.

[Københavnsg'], Copenhagen Light Festival, 2022.

-About the Copenhageners and their urban identity

Coronarefleksioner, Roskilde, 2021.

-About the Covid pandemic and its impact on our lives.

C.V. Ole Samsøe

3D-animation, visual storytelling, mapping, interactive design for museums and art institutions in Europe and Middle east

Owner / Creative Director Alien Workshop Alien Workshop 2013 - present

Owner/3D Artist/Compositor Greentea | 3D Greentea | 3D Jan 2004 - present

Creative Director/Partner Homerun Group Jan 2006 - Feb 2013

3D Artist/Partner Virtual Effects and Fantasies A/S Jan 1996 - Jan 2004

Projection works

Kulturens kerne, Akademikertårnet Frederiksberg, Kulturnatten 2023

Paradistræer og Stjernesvær, Roskilde Domkirke Unesco World Heritage Day 2023

Kære Gud, Helligaandskirken, Copenhagen Light Festival 2023

Krigens skygger, Køge Kyndelmisse 2023

Stjernesvær, Roskilde Domkirke, Unesco World Heritage Day 2022

[købøn 'haw'nsg], Nikolaj Kirke, Copenhagen Light Festival 2022

Kære Gud, Sct. Ibs Kirkeruin, Himmelske Dage i Roskilde 2022

Coronarefleksioner, Rådhuskælderens have, Roskilde 2021 og 2022

Videos with work examples: falling.dk/lyskunst

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