

# THE IMPERSONAL VERB AND THE HIDDEN SUBJECT

CURATED BY INDEX FOUNDATION

03.10-19.11.2023

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KAJSA DAHLBERG, SYBRIG DOKTER AND ALVA WILLEMAR, ROXY FARHAT, NATHALIE GABRIELSSON AND PETER SKÖLD, JOHANNA GUSTAFSSON FÜRST, SASKIA HOLMKVIST, RUNO LAGOMARSINO, IRIS SMEDS, ULRIKA SPARRE AND VICTORIA VERSEAU.

Index – The Swedish Contemporary Art Foundation is organizing an exhibition in Barcelona together with La Capella as part of their institutional dialogue. *The Impersonal Verb and the Hidden Subject* implements Index's institutional methodology, offering La Capella a way of working with artistic practice and audiences based on a desire for connecting situations, approaching complexity, and experimenting with temporalities. The starting point of the exhibition is a worktable presenting archive material and a selection of video works that visitors and La Capella team can interact with. The exhibition space is defined through sculptural pieces by Johanna Gustafsson Fürst.

*The Impersonal Verb and the Hidden Subject* observes moments and temporalities, actions and processes in the throes of being defined. The verb – in this exhibition – is a way to understand time and the hidden subject, as well as the system to understand action in a process, to define identity and subjectivity. From these two grammatical forms, the idea is to offer an exhibition as a platform for shared and dialogued processes. From methodologies to artworks, from cultural workers to exhibition visitors, the proposal is to share content, connecting it to additional content not necessarily present in the exhibition. Activating the exhibition space, La Capella team open Index's code to share artistic practices to more artists, cultural workers, and visitors. Some artworks can be connected to other moments and times; some of the Swedish films presented will surely share language and strategies with projects produced by artists in Barcelona. *The Impersonal Verb and the Hidden Subject* aims to facilitate multiple encounters and catalyze ways of thinking regarding future history writing, the sharing and indexation of information, and distributional models.

An ongoing dialogue between La Capella and Index has defined the type of artworks to be presented at the exhibition, understanding ways of doing in the Barcelona art context and how to relate these ways of doing to art practitioners in Stockholm. The exhibition is a working situation for thinking

about connections, feeding, language, grammar, and possible dialogues. *The Impersonal Verb and the Hidden Subject* refers to actions in the doing, gazes, and processes to be shared in real time.

The sculptural presence in the exhibition is defined by work by Johanna Gustafsson Fürst, an artist escaping linguistic structures and researching materialities; her objects are usually an 'in-between', something which oscillates between object and time, mass and precarity, structure and exception.

The selection of video works to be activated in the exhibition presents productions from artists dealing with identity, performativity, language, memory and landscapes, political discussions, and research around materiality. We find slow narratives and symbolic production, time travels to the past and possible futures, power relations, and multiple transitions.

For many years, the Index team has been using their exhibition space as their working space; to visit Index means to visit an exhibition but also to see an institution at work. Meetings take place in the exhibition, conversations happen in a continuous flow and information is shared. *The Impersonal Verb and the Hidden Subject* wants to be a parallel situation where artworks are triggers for thinking together and for continuing to work towards open futures for artistic practice.

2023 is the 25th anniversary of Index as a foundation. During this time, Index has been an institution reflecting on change and working with new definitions. The size of Index is 'human' and contact with its visitors is defined as a permanent dialogue. Being placed at the center of Stockholm helps Index to be understood as a key institution and node within contemporary art networks. Index understands that the role of an art institution does not begin and end with an exhibition – instead there is an ongoingness to the activities, research processes, learning programs, and relationships between Index, artists, and audiences. Index works with an artistic

# Index

conceptual approach that aims to carve out space and time for criticality, dialogue, curiosity, and building discursive situations that develop the role of art today.

The Index team comprises the constellation of art professionals working at Index. Adopting and defining the institutional methodology, several individuals work collectively with curatorial processes that are embedding archive analyses, exhibition making, text production, and learning processes. For the exhibition at La Capella, the Index team is composed of Jasmine Hinks (Curator of Editorial), Martí Manen (Director) and Isabella Tjäder (Curator of Learning).

The exhibition is produced with the support of Kulturrådet (the Swedish Arts Council).