

**Toril Johannessen is the Festival Exhibition artist 2024.**

**Festival Exhibition 2024  
Bergen Kunsthall  
23.5.–11.8.2024**

**Press viewing: 21.5.2024**

Bergen Kunsthall is pleased to announce that Toril Johannessen will be the Festival Exhibition artist in 2024! Johannessen grew up in Harstad, studied at the Bergen Academy of Art and Design and lives and works currently in Bergen. Internationally recognised for her work, Johannessen has shown in national and international exhibitions, including documenta 13 (2012) in Kassel, Munchmuseet on the Move (2018) and the Museum of Contemporary Art (2016), both in Oslo, as well as public art projects for the Bergen City Hall (2022) and the air station in Evenes (2023).

A central theme in Johannessen's work is the exploration of structures and frameworks of knowledge. From folk wisdom to scientific approaches, she delves into a wide range of areas with different traditions and conditions, highlighting the diverse connections between them. Historical contexts are linked with recent technological developments, shedding light on how these factors interact and shape how we perceive and create reality. Johannessen works with various media, including prints, information graphics, text and installations.

*«We're very proud to present Toril Johannessen as artist for the Festival Exhibition 2024! Since the early 2010s, she became internationally known as one of the prominent artists working with a conceptual, research-driven approach. In Norway, she's a key artist of her generation, with an outstanding work which addresses art in relation to multiple forms of knowledge production. Toril has been for many years based in Bergen, and as a Bergen-based organisation, it's an immense pleasure to work with a local artist on this important exhibition – we can't wait to see what we can make appear in the Festival Exhibition 2024!»*

– Axel Wieder, Director Bergen Kunsthall



Photo: Kobie Nel

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[Press images](#)

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Information as material is central in many of Johannessen's projects, including developing her own methods for datasets that form the basis of her works. With this approach, she challenges conventional boundaries between art and science, and highlights social structures and events that might otherwise seem inaccessible. The exhibition at Bergen Kunsthall will take its starting point in the artist's current research on the military presence and the geopolitical situation of the High North.

*"Johannessen has an exceptional ability to challenge established viewpoints and explore how various methods and forms of expression influence our ways of perceiving the world. With her works, the audience is encouraged to reflect on their own role as participants in an ever-shifting reality."*

– Silja Leifsdottir, Curator of Exhibitions, Bergen Kunsthall

### **About the artist**

Johannessen has a master's degree from the Bergen National Academy of the Arts (now KMD, University of Bergen) and studied also at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen, the Kunsthochschule Berlin Weißensee, and at the artist-run initiative Mountain School of Arts, Los Angeles. Recent solo exhibitions include a project for Entrée and Trykkeriet, Bergen (2019); Munchmuseet on the Move, Oslo (2018); ARoS, Aarhus (2017); Hordaland Kunstsenter, Bergen (2017); Trondheim Kunstmuseum (2016); and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Oslo (2016). Besides documenta 13 (2012) in Kassel, she also participated in large-scale exhibitions at Munch, Oslo (2022); Malmö Konstmuseum (2021); LIAF, the Lofoten International Art Festival (2019); the 13th Dak'Art Biennale de Dakar (2018); Plug In ICA, Winnipeg (2017); and the 13th Istanbul Biennial (2013).

### **The Festival Exhibition**

The Festival Exhibition is Bergen Kunsthall's flagship exhibition, established in 1953. Each Summer, we present a largescale exhibition with new work by a Norwegian artist, in connection with the Bergen International Festival (Festspillene i Bergen). The exhibition is considered the most important solo presentation for a Norwegian artist in their home country and creates a national debate about the state of the art, similar to the Turner Prize in the UK.

Recent Festival Exhibition artists include Gardar Eide Einarsson (2013), Ane Hjort Guttu (2015), Joar Nango (2020), Elisabeth Haarr (2021), Lene Berg (2022) and Camille Norment (2023).

### **Bergen Kunsthall**

Bergen Kunsthall is a centre for contemporary art and presents exhibitions and events by international artists. Landmark is our vibrant strand of live events that includes concerts and club nights. We organise a broad range of learning activities and debates that are open to everyone. Established initially as Bergens Kunstforening in 1838, the Kunsthall is based in an early functionalist building designed by the architect Ole Landmark in 1935, with gallery spaces, a café, and a bookshop. Bergen Kunsthall is supported by the Ministry of Culture, the City of Bergen, and Vestland County.

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