



ART WALK

Guide with map



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- 3 Pål Svensson, *Stigande sten, fallande vatten*, Drottning Kristina-passagen
- 4 Thomas Frisk, *Drottning Kristina*, Drottning Kristina-passagen
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- 13 Mjellby Konstmuseum (Mjellby Art Museum) *Museum of the famous Halmstad Group. National and international exhibitions.* www.mjellbykonstmuseum.se

Do you have any questions or views concerning public art in Halmstad?

If so, please contact:

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www.halmstad.se



Discover Halmstad's amazing art!

Halmstad is a living art city. Here you'll find a wide range with everything from local to international art.

You can experience the public art yourselves by taking an art walk. The tour is 2.5 km long and will take about 1 hour.



1 Annika Simonsson *Cyklisterna (Cyclists)*, 1998

Material: Plastic

Artist Annika Simonsson's sculptural group *Cyklisterna* can clearly be seen from Viktoriagatan in central Halmstad. Four bright yellow cyclists

are portrayed dashing along at full speed. They remind us of the bicycle factory that REX once ran in Halmstad. The work also raises thoughts of physical activity and playfulness.

Cyklisterna were created in conjunction with the *Drömmarnas Arkeologi (dreamer's archaeology)* exhibition in the summer of 1998. The work was appreciated by so many people that Halmstad's municipal council bought it. The title was initially *Spillkråka* (black woodpecker) because there's a bird on one of the bicycles' carriers. The bird is unfortunately missing now so the work is known simply as: *Cyklisterna (Cyclists)*.



2 Walter Bengtsson *Laxen går upp (Salmon rising)*, 1958

Material: Copper

Walter Bengtsson was a sculptor, painter and graphic designer. In his youth he worked at Nyhem's metal works. Working here raised his interest in working with metals and the options it provides. Bengtsson's art is often made from copper that he nickel-plated, coated and enamelled to enhance different colours.

Walter Bengtsson has made many monumental pieces in public environments around the country, with many of his works seen around Halmstad. *Laxen går upp*, like many other public works have caused debate. Can artists make salmon look like whatever they want? The original proposal for the sculpture was a little different and was called *Sex laxar i en laxask (Six salmon in a salmon box)*. Sometimes the people of Halmstad call the sculpture "Tre piss i Nissan" (Three pees in the Nissan). The sculpture was commissioned by Lions Club and given to Halmstad municipality.



3 Ulla och Gustav Kraitz *Förankrad farkost (Vessel at anchor)*, 1991

Material: Black diabase and stoneware

Förankrad farkost from 1991 is made from black diabase with a stoneware orb. The base is made

from granite, providing the vessel and its buoy with a stable footing. Ulla and Gustav Kraitz started experimenting with stoneware as far back as the end of the 1960s. Their main source of inspiration came from the Song dynasty. *Förankrad farkost* is made using a technique developed in China over a thousand years ago. It wasn't a natural process for the artists because the special technique had been lost and the couple had to do it by trial and error.

Gustav Kraitz works with works of simple geometric form: circles, orbs, cylinders and cubes. He uses few colours, but more glaze. Ulla shows us life's epochs in her art – everything from beans to babies and embryos that look like fossils found on the beach. Glaze is also an important medium for Ulla to express her art. The couple's sculptures have raised international awareness, not least in the US.

Harald Persson, *Nedgrävning (Burial)*, 1994

4

Material: Concrete

Nedgrävning is a conceptual piece created by Harald Persson in 1994. A concrete cube, painted white and measuring 1m x 1m x 1m, was buried in the ground close to Pablo Picasso's sculpture, *Kvinnohuvud*. The lawn was then relaid and there are now no visible signs of the piece, but the cube is still there – somewhere. Photographer Joachim Bengtsson documented the whole episode. Harald Persson has assembled the pictures in a book of the same title, *Nedgrävning*. The book can be seen as an extension of the work.

Harald Persson works are rarely given titles and aren't for sale – he works with "conceptual art", meaning that the idea is more important than the shape of the work.

Before Harald Persson was given permission to bury this cube he buried things on beaches for a while. When he realized that this was potentially dangerous he contacted the authorities for permission. But the authorities in Stockholm thought he was joking and instead he got permission from the local authorities in Halmstad. Later the artist was also given the opportunity of burying art in Humlegården in Stockholm. Since then Harald Persson hasn't felt the need to bury anything else.



Pablo Picasso *Kvinnohuvud (Head of a Woman)*, 1972

5

Material: Sand-blasted concrete

Pablo Picasso is one of the world's most significant names in modern art. Halmstad has one of 16 unique sculptures that the artist donated to cities around the world: The work was completed and installed in 1972 with the help of Norwegian concrete sculptor Carl Nesjar who worked on behalf of Picasso.

Kvinnohuvud is 15 metres tall and made from sandblasted concrete. The shape comes from when Picasso

experimented with torn paper to create silhouettes. The piece is a 3D portrait of his last wife Jacqueline Roche.

Picasso's *Kvinnohuvud* is one of the crown jewels of Halmstad municipality's art collection, but the sculpture has had a rocky place in the heart of the people of Halmstad. When it was erected it caused debate and has been wrongly accused of being a fake. The sculpture is today an important part of Halmstad's identity and is a central meeting point.



Fredrik Wretman *0 + 0 = 8*, 2007

6

Material: Glass fibre

0 + 0 = 8 is a water sculpture by Fredrik Wretman. The piece is a unique construction and has a unique history. Using advanced floating mechanics the 2m tall zero creates the illusion

of hovering over the surface of the water, irrespective of water level. The zero is of a classic typeface and is verdigrised bronze in colour. How we see the sculpture changes according to weather and light conditions. When the river Nissan is as flat as a millpond it reflects the zero to form a clear eight. The eight symbolizes and pays tribute to Halmstad's eighth century as a city.

The sculpture was a birthday present to Halmstad, which celebrated its 700th anniversary in 2007. The people of Halmstad chose from three proposals. Fredrik Wretman's sculpture won by a wide margin and was inaugurated on New Year's night 2008. During the winter the work is removed from the River Nissan for storage.



Edvin Öhrström *Kungamötet (Royal meeting)*, 1952

7

Material: Stone

On the steps of the city hall at Stora Torg (main square) is Edvin Öhrström's *Kungamötet*. The sculpture depicts the meeting between the Danish King Christian IV and Swedish King Gustav II Adolf in Halmstad in 1619. The event took place in conjunction with the final ransom

for Älvsborg fort being paid. The meeting was combined with a party in true 1600s style. Both kings were well known party animals and had to be carried to bed at the end of the heavy partying. The partying people are depicted around the stone.

The statue was placed on the steps in 1952. Öhrström has toned down the heroic features and grand gestures. During his time in Paris the artist came in contact with non-European art. The *Kungamötet* statue is made from one solid piece of stone and is reminiscent of Egyptian art. The reliefs are reminiscent of ancient Assyrian art.



Carl Milles *Europa och tjuren (Europa and the bull)*, 1926

8

Material: Bronze and stone

At the beginning of the 1920s Stora Torg (main square) needed smartening up. The renowned sculptor Carl Milles was called on and the result was *Europa och tjuren*. Milles portrayed Greek mythology in neo-classical style: the story of Zeus turning himself into a bull to steal away the beautiful princess Europa. Mythological motifs were typical of neo-classicism. The style used ancient Greece as its ideal, with inspiration from the finds made in conjunction with the archaeological digs at Pompeii.

It's said that the fountain caused a stir when it was installed. Church visitors were unhappy about the sculpture's naked figures. Protests went so far that willow-trees were planted around it to cover the nudity with greenery. We can now see *Europa and the bull* in all its glory and enjoy this meeting place that the sculpture makes in the heart of Halmstad.

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Erik Höglund, *Utän titel (Untitled)*, 1959

9

Material: Glass and concrete

Erik Höglund was a versatile artist who revolutionised the art of glass in Sweden. In 2010 saw the opening of Halmstad's new pedestrian precinct, Köpmansgatan, and, in connection with this, four of the artist's decorative art glass windows were rededicated. For many years these works had been located in the Norre Kavaljeren restaurant, and have now assumed a new form as two blocks, each comprising two pieces of glass. By day the artworks can appear fairly anonymous but at twilight, when the lamps are lighted, the different shapes and colours in the glass emerge like sparkling precious stones.

Restaurant Norre Kavaljeren, one of Halmstad's most popular restaurants in the 60s and 70s, suffered extensive fire damage in 1983. The premises were home to a number of artworks by both local and national artists. Most of the works were rescued and placed in store by Halmstad municipality, including Erik Höglund's art glass windows of 1959. They were to remain in store until 2008, when they were rediscovered more or less by chance and given a new lease of life as a decorative feature in Köpmansgatan.

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Nils Egerbrandt
91:an Karlsson, 1993

10

Material: Bronze

Rudolf Petersson created the comic character *91:an Karlsson* while doing his national service with the I16 of the Halland Regiment between 1916–1918. The number 91 is a reversal and mirror image of 16.

The statue was designed by Nils Egerbrandt who started sketching *91:an* when he took over the comic in

1960. Lengthy discussions were held whether the character could be made into a statue and located somewhere around Halmstad. There were strong feelings both for and against. *91:an* has now stood guard on Storgatan since 1993.



Peter Mandl
Neptunus (Neptune), 1990

11

Material: Glass

Peter Mandl's *Neptunus* is a fountain and glass sculpture located at Norre Torg, next to Norre port (north gate). The five metre tall installation consists of 1,000 panes of glass that have been glued together and reinforced with polyester to withstand water. The colour changes depending how the light shines and where you stand in relation to the fountain, but it's mainly green.

Neptunus was commissioned by Halmstad municipal council. The fountain is known by some locals as the "clothes peg", because of its shape. Neptune was the sea god according to Roman mythology.



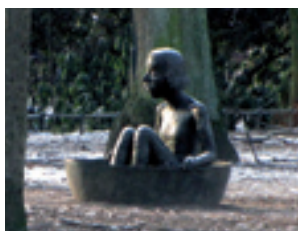
Ferdinand Boberg
Söndrumsurnan (Urn), 1909

12

Material: Granite

Söndrumsurnan was designed by Ferdinand Boberg. He was a prominent architect who also designed furniture, cabinets, pianos and tiled stoves. The urn is made of granite from Söndrum. In 1924 Halmstad municipality was invited to buy the beautiful urn from Skandinaviska Granitaktiebolaget for SEK 2,000, which was a lot of money in 1924. When Halmstad municipal council considered it couldn't afford it, a private person living in Söndrum decided to take matters into his own hands.

Together with the local newspaper this person started a collection. This individual also succeeded in getting funding from Halmstad's "nature conservancy and beautification society". Because so many people got involved, Halmstad municipal council decided to make up the rest of the money needed to buy the urn and placed it in Norre Katts park. It's possible to say therefore that *Söndrumsurnan* is so called for two reasons – mainly the Söndrum granite, but also because of the enthusiast who lived in Söndrum.



Lena Cronqvist
Flicka i balja
(Girl in a bath), 2007

13

Material: Brons

Halmstad's public art collection was added to in 2009 with the bronze piece *Flicka i balja* by Lena Cronqvist. The artist is probably best known for her expressive art with psychological undertones and since 2000 has also developed her sculptural works.

Cronqvist often uses themes from her childhood, which are sometimes frightening. *Flicka i balja* is however a peaceful depiction of the artist herself as a child. The location of the sculpture was chosen with care. She sits surrounded by trees, close to Norre Katts park's popular playground. The girl is looking out over the park and the duck pond to the River Nissan in the background.



Torgny Larsson
Himmelsbåt (Celestial vessel), 1999/2000

14

Material: Halogen lights, steel and neon

Himmelsbåt was created by the artist Torgny Larsson and inaugurated at the turn of the Millennium. The sculpture is inspired by mental pictures of a rowing boat rising vertically towards the sky. As dusk approaches the sculpture is lit by blue neon lights, forming a sharp contrast against the night sky.

As an extension to the sculpture's inauguration, Torgny Larsson organized an exhibition at Halmstads Konsthall (former Stads-galleriet) where he presented a proposal for a "millennium bridge" over the river Nissan, intended as a link in the heart of Halmstad. Three years later Larsson's Gamletull Bridge opened close to *Himmelsbåt* – today a much appreciated link between the city centre and the Gamletull district.



Mikael Ericsson
Dagbok (Diary), 2007

15

Material: Video installation

Artist Mikael Ericsson expresses his works through various media – paint, sculpture, sound, film, television and various projects. In

recent years his works have centered on animations and large-screen projections using advanced technology.

The *Dagbok* video installation is projected onto a wall in the city library and appears as an animated mural. The work comes from an idea of a far distant future. Archaeologists dig up a diary with texts and drawings made between 2008 and 2092. It contains a librarian's notes, describing how working at the library changed over time. The advanced technology of the future, developed in the 21st century cannot decipher the diary. All that's left are drawings illustrating this absent text. Mikael Ericsson will add to *Dagbok* over time. The work is governed by light and is therefore not visible at all times. It can be seen more frequently at darker times of the year.



Olav Christopher Jensen
Another Thinking Bell, 2006

16

Material: Glass and steel

Olav Christopher Jensen has created the glass sculpture *Another Thinking Bell*. The work gets its inspiration from the process centered on the emergence of the city library – a complicated glass building that hovers over the river Nissan.

The sculpture consists of 600 hand-blown pieces of glass, all individually formed, hanging freely from the ceiling in the city library. The piece is 4.5 m tall, 2.9 m wide and weighs 900 kg. The glass comes from Åfors Glassworks in Småland and is linked together using refined steel. *Another Thinking Bell* evolved in partnership between Halmstad municipal council and the National Public Art Council Sweden.



Halmstads Konsthall 17

Halmstads Konsthall gives you the opportunity of enjoying contemporary art by local and national artists. It has 6-8 exhibitions a year, making it a vibrant centre for art in Halmstad.

www.halmstad.se/halmstadskonsthall

