

Law Shifters

New exhibition at Nikolaj Kunsthal gives everybody the opportunity to write new laws

Just imagine there was a law machine that could swallow ordinary people's ideas and transform them into legislative proposals written in official legal language – or turn them into poetic verse. Well, such a machine does exist, and from January 11 2018, you can visit it at the exhibition *Law Shifters* at Nikolaj Kunsthal.

This is how it works: first you write a law in everyday language and on an ordinary piece of paper. It could, e.g., be a law on gender equality, climate, education, the right to privacy or to free speech. Next you put the proposal into the law machine – a large sculptural construction with a system of pneumatic tubes that sends all laws into a reception box – and then you wait. Now a team of translators - lawyers, judges and writers - is activated, and out comes a legislative proposal written in official legal language – or a poem.

Law Shifters is a new exhibition created by Danish artist Stine Marie Jacobsen who has been working since 2016 on her international art project with this title. It is a project that both enters into a dialogue with and challenges the existing laws, and thus puts the citizens' right to a direct democracy on the agenda.

With *Law Shifters* Stine Marie Jacobsen creates a new way of relating to society. Do children, young people, adults and the elderly take different views on ethical problems? How do children relate to current legislation concerning, e.g., refugees or privacy?

"With *Law Shifters* we wish to present a serious, but also humorous and creative way of relating to existing regulations and legislation in Europe. The world is changing, so how do the new generations perceive laws and

rights that in some cases are based on decades or centuries old ideas and structures?”, says Andreas Brøgger, head of Nikolaj Kunsthal.

From November 2017 to May 2018, Denmark holds the chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. The chairmanship is celebrated with a Danish cultural programme in Strasbourg. *Law Shifters* is the main manifestation in Denmark during the chairmanship.

The new law texts that will come into being during *Law Shifters* at Nikolaj Kunsthal will subsequently be exhibited in the main building of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.

Stine Marie Jacobsen will be in Copenhagen from January 3. till April 1. - and will be available for interviews.

From January 11. it is possible to see the new law suggestions at www.law-shifters.eu

Visual material on nikolajkunsthal.dk/presse

Get more information on the exhibition by contacting Charlotte Frost on pr@nikolajkunsthal.dk

BIO:

Stine Marie Jacobsen is a conceptual artist working to decode violence and law both individually and collectively through participatory means. She lives and works in Copenhagen and Berlin, graduated from the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts with an MFA in 2009 and a BFA from CalArts, the California Institute of the Arts, Los Angeles, USA in 2007.

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