



## **vague terrain frölunda**

“vague terrain - vague tissue”, artistic research, geographically situated in the suburb of Västra Frölunda, Gothenburg, Sweden

This is a site-specific collective artistic praxis and we are investigating into vague spaces through the interventions of temporary, process-based, textile installations in non-traditional spaces. The vague spaces are based on “terrain vague”, a concept coined by the architect Ignasi de Solà-Morale (1995). Vagueness is here explored from the point of view of the citizen, the habitant and the wanderer inspired by Michel de Certeau (1984). Therefore the vague terrains explored are small in-between vacant areas in (sub)urban spaces, scheduled to be built upon in the future.

Vague Tissue is the development of site-specific tissues that grow, transform, pulsate, molds, camouflages and play with visions through transparency and create complex spaces that changes over time. The materials used are experiments with the spinning and preparation of textile fibres and yarn. The first year 2012/2013 will be devoted to basic research focusing on vague space, designing the probing activities, material experiments and development.

On this blog you can follow experiments, encounters and interventions in vague spaces of Västra Frölunda.

All photos by Lena T H Berglin och Kajsa G. Eriksson

### **about us**

Lena T H Berglin is a researcher in Textile Material Design with an interest in future textile materials and the fluid relation between textile science and the use of materials. In my research I collaborate with researchers in polymer technology, art and physics. My experimental work covers the assembling of fibres into different kinds of yarns to the creation of the textile structures.

Kajsa G. Eriksson is an artist and a researcher in urban art and design with the aim of enhancing engagement in public space. I work process based, site-specific and collaborative using the methods of “performing explorations”. This method can be thought of as a probe, involving oneself as a starting point and using narrative, props, performance and materials to both create and discover scenarios and by this promote a sensuous understanding of urban space.

# march 2012: searching for terrain vague

vagueness

Posted Mon September 10, 2012 12:18:12

looking for vagueness in and around Västra Frölunda:



non-cleared vegetation



dumping



traces



## Terrain Vague - Ignasi de Solá-Morales

links

Posted Mon September 10, 2012 12:31:44

Terrain Vague - Ignasi de Solà-Morales.

<http://indexofpotential.net/terrain-vague-%E2%80%93-ignasi-de-sola-morales/>

## march-maj 2012: finding vague terrain

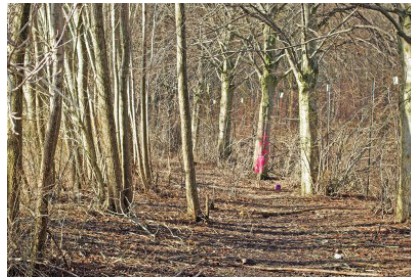
prologue

Posted Mon September 10, 2012 12:53:34

Vague terrain found in Västra Frölunda, a suburb of Gothenburg which was planned in the 1950's and built in the 60's. The chosen space is situated in between a small meadow and a parking lot, about 100 kvm (5x20kvm) in size. The land is owned by the city of Gothenburg, which plans to develop it into a residential area in two years time. This is the vacant area and vague space we have decided to continue working in.



willow tree



path

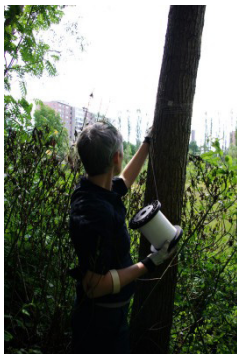


dumping

## june 2012: vague tissue - sketch one

prologue

Posted Mon September 10, 2012 12:57:34



activity



a round meadow between the road and our workplace



vague terrain from the outside



vague terrain from within



view from fottpath



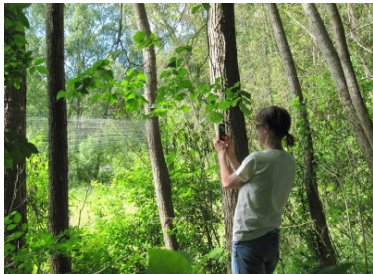
close-ups

materials: Linum usitatissimum, PLA, wool, ...

## July 2012: vague tissue - sketch two

prologue

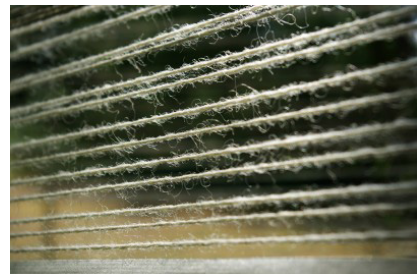
Posted Mon September 10, 2012 12:59:08



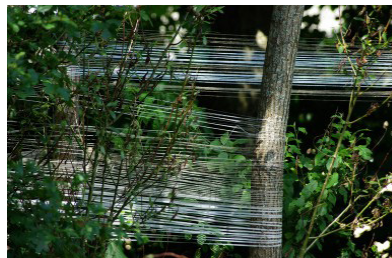
activity



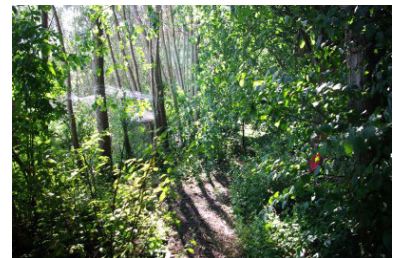
transformations



vague terrain from within



vague terrain from the outside





foothpath



close-ups

## a context of vacant land

links

Posted Mon September 10, 2012 13:00:56

vacant land - <http://www.thenatureofcities.com/2012/08/21/vacant-land-in-cities-could-provide-important-social-and-ecological-benefits/>

Vacant Land in Cities Could Provide Important Social and Ecological Benefits  
by Timon McPhearson, Assistant Professor, The New School, New York, NY USA

## september 2012: vague tissue - sketch three

prologue

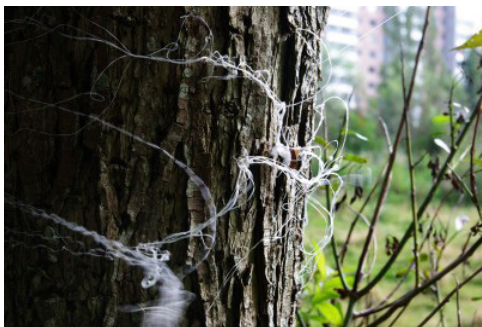
Posted Mon September 10, 2012 13:05:32



activity



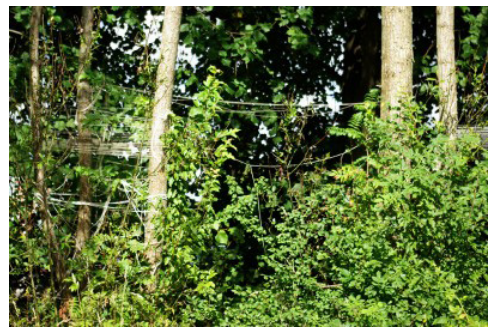
transformations



transformations



vague terrain from within



vague terrain from outside



During the summer the wind, the rain and the air pollution have transformed our materials in different ways. New colors, broken threads, threads glued together, fuzzier and more wollen surfaces. Even the strong and high performance synthetics had changed, not much but clearly visible.

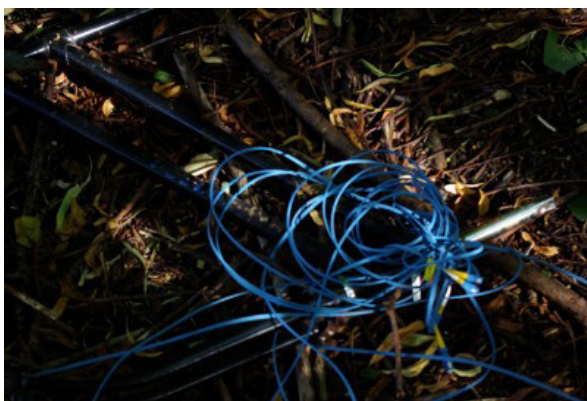
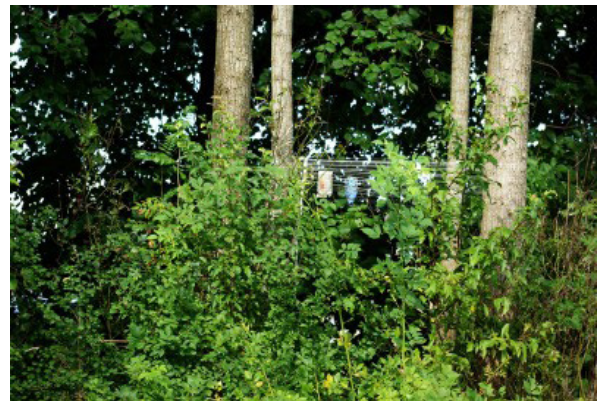
## making use of dumping

prologue

Posted Fri September 28, 2012 13:13:42



making use of dumping



recent dumping



## junk space or control space?

links

Posted Tue October 02, 2012 11:54:00

“How do art and architecture address ‘Junkspace’ on the one hand and ‘control space’ on the other?”

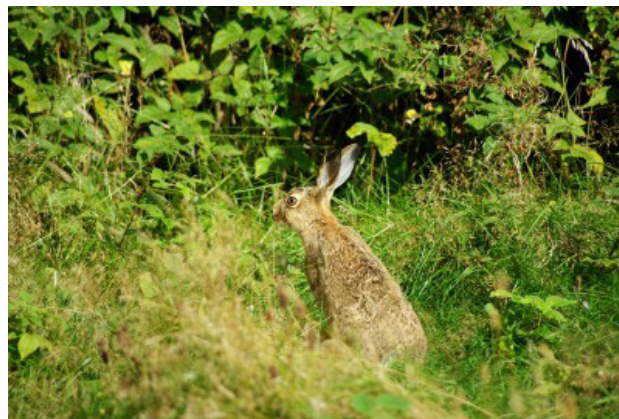
—Hal Foster

[www.artforum.com](http://www.artforum.com)

## first encounter

encounters

Posted Fri October 12, 2012 15:11:54



This was one of our first encounters, a field hare. We realized that during the summer there are few people using this space.

## intervention 2012-10-09

interventions

Posted Sun October 14, 2012 17:24:40

This is the start of the intervention. It will be built during october and then maintained, experimented with and activated during november and december. We intend to make it five meters high and 10 meters wide.



A passer-by stops to view the progress.

## friendly and talkative visitors

encounters

Posted Sun October 14, 2012 18:02:32

Today four curious, open minded and outspoken children from the school nearby came to visit us. They were amazed by the inside of our installation and the tactility of the threads. They told us stories about our vague space, a secret place where they could escape and imagine their own worlds. After a while they came back with four white roses as a gift. Why? Because we made the trees so beautiful.



## intervention 2012-10-15

interventions

Posted Mon October 15, 2012 18:19:42

A grey sky and a few drops of rain. The vague space and areas around it are drenched in rain water and have huge puddles. But the meadow in front of our intervention are surprisingly dry! A well drained meadow?



## intervention 2012-10-16

interventions

Posted Tue October 16, 2012 21:55:48

The sign is slowly growing higher and wider. We need to find out how to reach higher levels. New air-traps should be considered.





## Orange men

encounters

Posted Sun October 21, 2012 11:29:38

Sharing space with orange men video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bJE-W3nKeRk>

## weaving in the trees

encounters

Posted Mon October 22, 2012 16:01:41

What are you doing? This is the question which the kids from the school next door asks when they encounter us. We have developed an answer which we now use frequently.

We are weaving in the trees

Works so far.

Today three boys visited us and chatted for a bit and then kept on playing hide-and-peek in and around the space and the meadow. We are waiting for the orange men to ask us what we are doing. They are only looking so far.

## intervention 2012-10-22

interventions

Posted Mon October 22, 2012 16:03:36

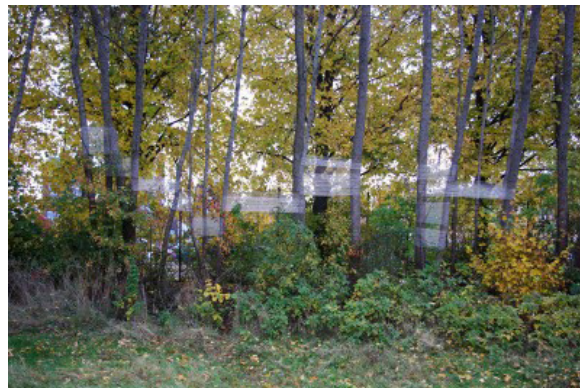


## intervention 2012-10-23

interventions

Posted Tue October 23, 2012 21:54:00

We are getting higher up in the trees, and we need to be careful with our movements. The threads are now visible from long distances and their existence makes people pay attention.



## **orange and green men**

encounters

Posted Wed October 24, 2012 20:05:30

Yesterday we were finally approached by a man in an orange jacket, he had a beard and was also wearing a baseball cap. Entering from the other side of the round meadow, at the exact moment as the other man we were approached by a man in green, also bearded and wearing a beret. The man in orange jacket was part of the workers group that are building the recreational area that is being set up next to the space. The man in green jumper came from the park and nature management at the city council of Göteborg.

They both had questions about our activity. We explained the projects intention of exploring vague spaces and with the dual goals of art in public space and material development. We felt a positiv response from both of them. Today the children have started to use us as a more permanent part of their environment by asking questions about the whereabouts of their friends when they can't find them. Passers-by are also starting to pay more attention to our presence and work.

## **confetti**

interventions

Posted Wed October 24, 2012 20:15:58

Yellow leaves are falling like confetti. Video [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hOH1K\\_MvRf4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hOH1K_MvRf4)

## **cabin in progress**

urban development

Posted Fri October 26, 2012 11:19:22

We found this cabin made from sticks and branches next to the vague space. We think this is what the children have been working on. They have told us so much about it that we expected a more developed cabin. There is still a lot of work to be done on this one, but it is a project started and driven by the children themselves. It seems that children and youth are specialist on what goes on in vague space and its potential for development.



## tear and maintenance

interventions

Posted Fri October 26, 2012 11:33:21

Yesterday we found that the lower parts had been torn down. These pictures shows what it looked like before and after we rebuilt it. Next time it happens by people or by the weather...because it will happen. We will work with it as an aesthetic element in the intervention. This is part of our idea of working with maintenance as part of our process.



## intervention 2012-10-27

interventions

Posted Sun October 28, 2012 07:44:39

The “textile text” is finally there and almost all the leaves have left the trees.



## the round ring

vagueness

Posted Tue October 30, 2012 11:46:25

The vague space is located at the north end of the round circle that you can see on the map. Since it is an old map it reveals the original design idea for the place.

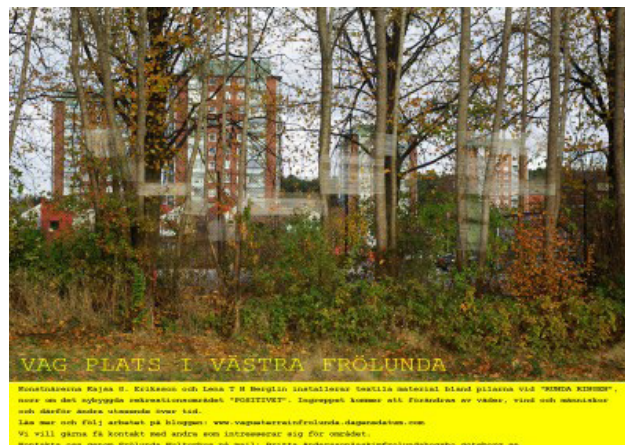


## poster

encounters

Posted Sun November 11, 2012 19:07:19

This is the poster we are using to get in contact with other people interested in the vague area.



## experiment

experiments

Posted Thu November 15, 2012 22:54:50

A piece of original yarn together with a yarn that has been exposed to air, sun and rain since July in the particular vague terrain in Frölunda.



## showing off

vagueness

Posted Fri November 23, 2012 11:48:59

The vague space is showing off its vagueness



## vandalism or potential

interventions

Posted Fri November 23, 2012 15:23:29

We thought that the heavy wind and rain would do more harm to the installation than it has done. Instead the structure has been torn down by someone and this effects the lower parts of the textile text. The challenge here is to work with the feelings of disappointment and instead include the result in the process. We can see the beauty in what has been done and from another angle it is interesting that someone else is adding to our work regardless their intentions. We will leave what has been torn hanging down but rebuild and maintain the original structure. But for a few days the letters will not be complete. The yarn that is hanging down will be used in further experiments in one way or another.



## alcohol and design

encounters

Posted Fri November 23, 2012 15:40:00

Another design found close to the vague space is the wind and rain shelter that people who drink alcohol outdoors have built. This shelter is now torn down and doesn't exist anymore. We think of the people who drink alcohol in the area as an informal stakeholder of the space and as a group of people who has a lot of knowledge of vague spaces. It is very difficult to encounter people who use the space for drinking. It feels like it exist an invisible wall between this group, us and other people around them. The red text was painted by someone on a stone, cursing people who drink alcohol in the space.



## first formal meeting with the school kids at Frölundaskolan

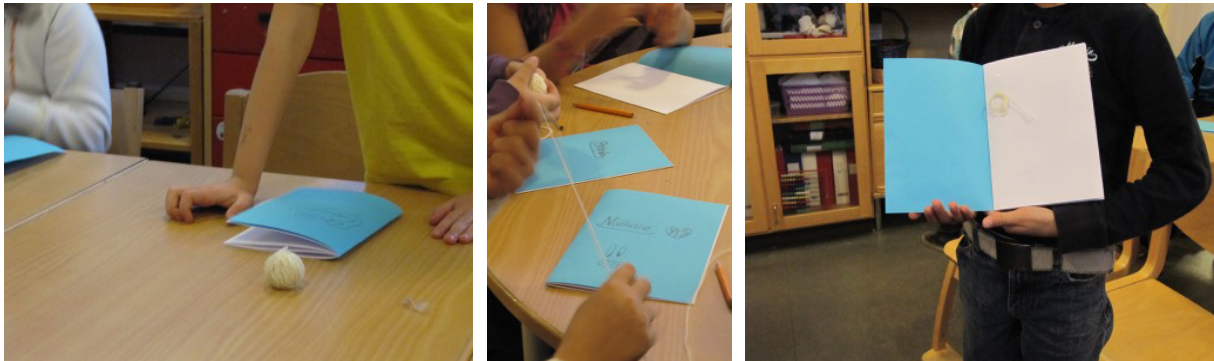
encounters

Posted Wed November 28, 2012 22:50:26

Today we meet a group of 18 school kids at the youth centre in Frölundaskolan (public elementary school in Västra Frölunda). A few of them were the same kids we had meet earlier in the vague space. We meet them to prepare for the probing of the vague space next week. They prepared their notebooks for writing stories, collecting findings and other documentation. They also took a look at their probing material, the wool yarn.

The kids did a great job and we are now very excited to meet them again next week to explore the space together with them.

Thank you Ninni and everyone at Frölundaskolan for having us there and thank you Anna for taking the photos for us.



## second meeting with schoolkids

encounters Sun December 09, 2012 17:13:53

This week we met a second time with the kids at Frölundaskolan. This time we visited the vague space and the kids could explore the space and engage with our interventions. Afterwards we sat down inside and the kids wrote stories and made drawings about their own experiences of vague spaces. Next time when it is not so cold the kids will make textile interventions of their own in the space.



## experiments

experiments

Posted Sat December 22, 2012 23:05:35

Absorption of vague terrain liquids emphasizes the fibre absorptive properties in a clearly visual



## soft tag

urban developmen

Posted Fri January 18, 2013 10:46:30

Around christmas another vague text appeared in Frölunda. someone had used snow to write on the brick wall of the mall. It says in swedish "BELIEVE IN YOURSELF".



## mirrored textile text

interventions

Posted Fri January 18, 2013 11:03:09

In the harsh january light the textile text appears from behind. The letters appear backwards and mirrored. We have given the vague space a front and a backside, and maybe also an inside and an outside. How can we connect this front and back and start working with the vague space as a space and not a billboard?



## vague spaces at Gerlesborgsskolan, Bohuslän

vagueness

Posted by Fri February 08, 2013 10:45:17

During the last week of January vague terrain frölunda was presented at the art-school Gerlesborgsskolan in Gerlesborg, a small community situated north of Gothenburg right by the ocean. There was also a workshop on the topic of vagueness. The students made their own interpretations of "terrain vague" and from that choose their own vague spaces to work with.

Early on in the work process the students realized that the whole area had a vague character since it has a lot of summer house which makes it a place filled with people in the summer and an empty place in the winter. This gives the village a temporarily vagueness in winter time. This gives rise to new spaces of potential but also spaces of emptiness and death.

Here are few images of different kinds of vagueness in Gerlesborg.

Big thanks to the students Clara, Helle, Lotte, Annie, Sara, Carl & Ellinor



A sleeping space. The summer house which has been put to sleep for the winter. All things are stored away and the space is left on its own.



A dumping space. A torn down house is laid out on a field to disintegrate.



An uncanny space. The house where you see no people around but can here a radio playing from inside.



A space of double emotions. At the top of a hill with a stunning view of the archipelago and at the same time the humming sound of electricity (or something) and grey steel houses that have signs that tell you to "keep out!"



A space of everyday function turning into abstract form. A deconstructed playground where the swings are taken away and the sand in the sandbox is heavy and hard.



A construction barely holding together. Walls are sliding and roofs are gliding and the surfaces are turning color from moulds.



## revealing vagueness - photographs from the seventies

links

Posted Mon February 25, 2013 15:19:09

On these two links you can look at and read about the work by the photographer Ingemar Jernberg. The photographs are from the vague space and the surroundings. The history of public space and urban life in Västra Frölunda is slowly revealing itself.

Ingemar Jernbergs homepage [LÄNKA](#)

artikel: Förbi på ett ögonblick [LÄNKA](#)



## intervention 2013-02-26 by the school kids

interventions

Posted Tue March 12, 2013 12:48:20

The first intervention by the school kids from Frölundaskolan. So far we have prepared for the intervention in the vague space together with the kids and finally today we had the opportunity to make it happen for the first time. Again the kids are really making use of the whole space and easily come up with own ideas on what they want to do and how to do it. Big thanks to all the kids and the personal!



The energy and the concentration which the kids engage in the work are amazing.



And so are the results!



This is the conditions for the work: a ball of yarn and your hands.

For us the “drawings” that was made in the landscape by the yarn was fascinating.



The statements from the kids were equally fascinating. They were stating different things on what they were doing. Some stated they were doing shelters for spiders, a castle or they made zig-zag patterns. Some were trying to do similar to what we had done before. They all came together in the statements that they were doing something that made things nicer and they enjoyed doing it. Everything was documented by the kids themselves.



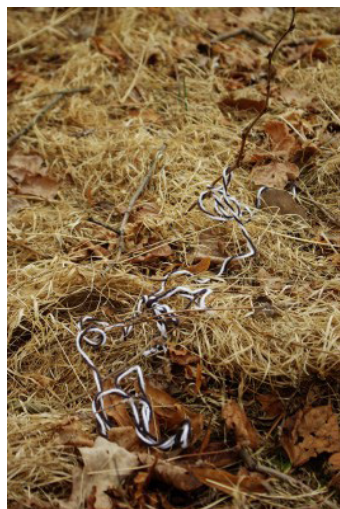
The result that came out of today’s work with the school kids, a group of people that normally use the vague space but under less organized forms, were interesting both from an artistic and a research point of view. The work will continue and the next step this spring is to engage with other groups that are using this space.

## intervention by someone

interventions

Posted Sun, April 14, 2013 19:55:20

Today we found this new installation in the ring, in black and white, made by someone. It was interesting to see another color than the white one, maybe we got some new ideas.



## time

urban development

Posted Fri April 19, 2013 10:25:30



Spending time in a space is a start of many different things.

## presence

urban development

Posted Mon May 13, 2013 15:41:14

Observing the execution of urban plans on site makes urban development fundamentally mysterious.

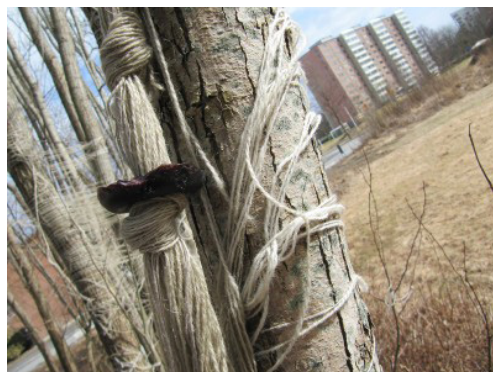


## extended dye

experiments

Posted Mon May 13, 2013 15:52:10

Wine, gum arabic and rain will change the color of the yarn even more.



## fun

urban development

Posted Wed May 15, 2013 15:47:19



A space for...  
a blanket, company, drink & food...



...and rest  
All this fun depends on keeping warm  
and dry.



Therefore the drain we finally found in the middle of the round meadow, well hidden by grass, confirms what we have been suspected all along. The space "Runda Ringen" was once designed and planned to be used by people.

## layers of threads

vagueness

Posted Thu May 16, 2013 11:13:06



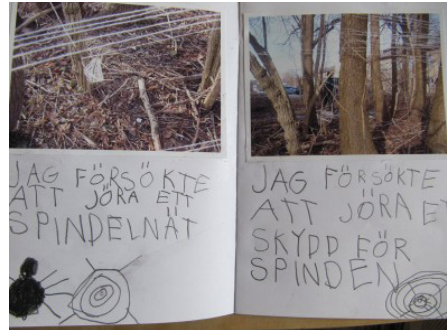
memories/words

## reflections in-between interventions

interventions

Posted Thu May 16, 2013 11:19:57

This is an example of reflections that the school-kids do in their notebooks. They do this when we meet them at "fritis" in-between the interventions.



## second intervention 2013-04-25 by the school kids

interventions

Posted Thu May 16, 2013 11:57:21

This workshop and intervention in the vague space in Västra Frölunda included 21 school-kids from Frölundaskolan. The new thing this time was the introduction of color! The kids were very excited and just choosing the color was an important part of the process.

The instructions for the workshop were as follows:

1. You can use as many balls of threads you like but take on at a time.
2. Stay inside the vague space.
3. The most important thing to remember is that you decide what you do with the material and how & where you do it in the space. Do exactly what you feel like doing!

As before the schoolkids bring loads of energy and concentration with them. This time there were more collaborations already from the start. Except for making a wide range of designs, constructions and shapes relating to the space the schoolkids bring up relevant questions. "Are we allowed to do this?" Our first answer to this question related to littering and I answered that the wool yarn is degradable and will vanish over time and not pollute the area. Our second answer was related to laws and rules about what everyone are allowed or prohibited from doing in public space. At our final meeting with the schoolkids this question was addressed and we had a discussions around public space as a space for freedom and responsibility. The kids was quite aware about prohibitions in public space but less educated in what they are actually allowed to do there.





## vague play

vagueness

Posted Mon May 27, 2013 11:30:39

We have found that the vague space have become a place for playful constructions with materials like branches, sticks, stones and straw. Is it the kids from school using the space?

A few days later we found out what was going on. The art school at Frölundaskolan was inspired by the workshops/interventions we had done in the vague space and had started their own outdoor project there using natural material found in the space to built and create different forms and shapes.

By doing something in a space does not only mean it ends there. As long it is public other people will be inspired.



## the future of vague terrain

urban development

Posted by Thu October 10, 2013 17:02:47

One character of the terrain vague in Västra Frölunda is that it is going to be built on in the future. This will happen in the autumn of 2014 and be part of the third stage in a building project called The Apple Orchard built by White Architects. The project is described like this:

“Own identity – a richer whole

Äppelträdgården provides its inhabitants with their own separate identity. People living on this estate will not just be living in Frölunda but in the “apple orchard”. At the same time, Äppelträdgården offers an attractive aspect for people who already live and work in that estate. Instead of constructing sharp physical boundaries between the site, the estate and the surrounding areas with the purpose of creating an island of safety, we are creating a local attraction that is open to all. This will give people living here the opportunity to get onto the property ladder, with a home on their own plot of land within the same housing estate.”

The second stage is already on its way and will look like this according to the builders and architects.



In this picture one can see the vague space at the end of the field.



The houses from stage one looks like this from within the vague space.



One of the ideas of the Apple Orchard is that there will be spaces between the houses left as an apple garden for everyone to use. Therefore there are no fences on the architect drawings of the garden. The people who live in the houses have another idea and have been putting up fences to mark their property. A quite new phenomena in the area.

## another building site

urban development

Posted Tue January 28, 2014 16:11:18

The environment around the vague space is becoming a building site where new houses are popping up very quickly. We are observing and documenting another building which been around for quite a while. This wind shed are an informal and self-organized meeting place for people drinking beer outdoors in the area.

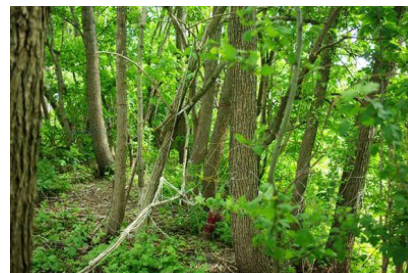


## the material one year later

experiments

Posted Tue January 28, 2014 16:42:16

The process of the exploration of the vague space is slowly coming to an end. The circle of our work are closing and so are also the seasons. The yarn of wool have survived the season surprisingly well and have been integrated and mixed with nature at the site. The integration has created a beautiful result where you can still see the intentional design but where nature has done it's own work by and un-organized organization that takes it one step further and makes it even more beautiful...and vague...





## to be a place

vagueness

Posted Wed January 29, 2014 14:49:51

The place as a space moves into my body and becomes a part of it. This is an un-reversible process. To flow, to flee into a space, to mimic, to appropriate and partially assimilate. The space is eventually left and abandoned and still the space lives on inside of me as memory, experience, new stories and fantasies. The process goes on regardless if the space is self-organized or governed but there is a difference, in a governed space the actual structure and system of the space seem to move in to my body rather than the informal and random meetings of a vague space and in this case a particular "terrain vague" in Västra Frölunda.

I picture the connection between my body and the space as an invisible thread that continue to exist between me, people, plants, animals and material.

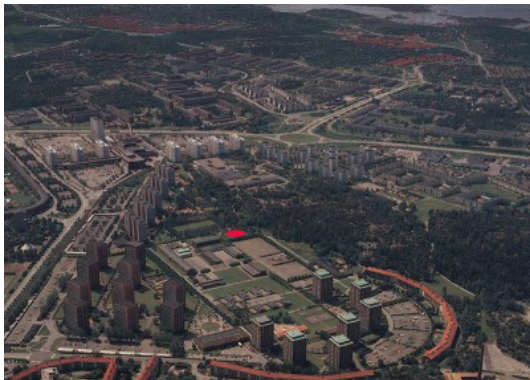


THE ROUND RING – a vague space in Västra Frölunda  
epilogue  
Posted Mon February 10, 2014 12:15:40

In the summer of 2012 Vague research studios initiated the project "Vague Terrain – Vague Tissue", in which the concept of vagueness is explored through an artistic process. The concept of vagueness is inhabiting a potential, that is to say a possibility for the unexpected to happen or to be created. In the project of "Vague Terrain - Vague Tissue" VRS would like to exemplify and concretize this potential through a long-term exploration of a vague space. This is a translation of an article about the project published at the blog "This Must Be The Place" the autumn of 2013.

#### Vague spaces

In the city, especially in peripheral project areas there are spaces characterized by the ephemeral as they are scheduled to be built upon in the future, so called "vague spaces". Vague Space or "Terrain Vague" is a conception coined by the architect Ignasi de Sola- Morales. These places usually have a life-cycle of a few years, sometimes longer. For city planners, politicians and landowners these spaces are archived as potential future building prospects. But for those people who are using these spaces and who passes by they are part of their everyday life. Vague spaces have a character of the city's "subconscious" and are frequently used as dumping sites by both residents and the city, the dumping could be consisting of various materials like gravel, old clothes, trash and shoveled snow. These places are invisible not only geographically but also linguistically as they are not mentioned or named and usually only heard of as problem areas. The sites are partially hidden but also populated by dog owners, moped riders, alcoholics, kids and joggers. "Our" vague place was found in Västra Frölunda and VRS then made their workplace and studio as a one year project and commitment. In this case the location of the vague space will be developed with housing in autumn 2014 and will thus disappear as a common and public space. The new buildings are part of a project called "Äppelträdgården" (the apple orchard) and has three stages. The first phase is already built, the second built in the autumn of 2013 and the last phase will be building on the actual site of the vague space making it disappear.



#### THE ROUND RING – public yesterday, semi-public tomorrow.

The shopping mall Frölunda Torg and the houses around it was planned in the late fifties and was built in the early sixties and by that the area was converted from a pure rural area to the urban space it is today. Also mentioned in the early plans and how patios were linked to the rental apartments. For example, in the plans from 1959 it is said that it must be scheduled to be at least 12 square feet of play area per average-sized apartment. Through the community center Frölunda Kulturhus we have made contact with some people who have lived in the area for a longer time and they could tell their story about the place. One story told about the vague space is that it had trees planted all around the circular shaped green area which is visible from the early flight photo. The space is drained and has a manhole in the center, the ground is immersed and therefore sheltered and the trees around the meadow creates a shaded circle. Who designed this place is a mystery since the early plans only reveal the space as a regular square ball field.

In the sixties the place was used as a playground and parents were resting in the shade and had joint oversight of the children playing on the lawn. The place has since been named by the people using it, it's called THE ROUND RING. In the seventies the place changed character and became a sort of backside of Frölunda High School where young people hung out. Today THE ROUND RING has

developed into a vague place, “in between”, a margin that can be completed and interpreted by many. When reading the old city plan and comparing it to the new plan from 2008 the linguistic change is striking. The Town Plan of 1959 highlights and describes a “public place” with different characters and there are areas that can only be used for “general purpose”. The “general” can be linked to “common” to older expressions that describes something that is common. The new plans of the area describes the open slots that will be left between the new buildings with the words “the contiguous garden rooms stands for the semi-public space. There are common areas for play and recreation “. This way of writing is revealing a new desire different from earlier public spaces and commons, here the plan reveals ideas of semi-private spaces and semi-public spaces and the argumentation for this new structure in urban planning is to provide and enhance security.

#### Vague interventions

In order to explore the space Vague Research Studios started the process by installing a “textile text” that would interact with the site’s unclear identity but not eliminate the vague or “tidy up” the character of “subconscious” public space. VRS was aiming towards a form and content of the intervention that integrates with the site at several levels; materially, socially, geographically and sustainable in the sense that the interventions organization and degradation becomes part of the site’s story. In addition to formative and documentary processes, we have worked through informal meetings, these were constantly occurring since we physically were spending time in the place. The collaboration that developed out the most from the process of informal meetings was with Frölundaskolan (school) and with a group of children 7-10 years who during the year we have met several times. They worked with us as co-researchers exploring the vague space together with us. The school children were already using THE ROUND RING as some sort of playground and after they found us as we were making our textile intervention the collaboration started. As co-researcher the schoolchildren was given a material from us and to a certain extent we formalized the explorations and discussions of vague places and public spaces. The school children brought a frenetic energy and occupied the space with ease and self-confidence.

#### Creation vs order

The development of the informal meetings with the school kids was quite straight forward but what was more difficult to develop was the meetings that took place wordlessly. We had a few conversations with the alcoholics who populate the area a few times, instead we observed each other’s presence on hold. They as a group noticed us and we noticed them but there was not many crossings of our paths even if we occupied the same space. It is only now at the end as we have come to actually meet and had conversations, probably has both the way we look at them and they at us changed, but it has taken time. Those who use the area to sit outside and drink beer together has already built up its own structure with places where they congregate.

The entire area around the vague space is and has been a construction site in the past year and the recently completed recreation area Positivparken (Positive park) with new play areas for different ages, fitness equipment, bowling greens, football and volleyball courts and dog parks is a process that we have noted and documented. In the late sixties Frölunda was known for a large play ground where the kids could build whatever they wanted from real wooden materials. The playground is no longer there, during the seventies the space shifted and became a hangout for young people who drank “mellanöl” and was demolished. “Mellanöl” is a pilsner beer which was sold in shops and not in the regulated shops of Systembolaget in Sweden between the years 1965-1977. The idea of the playground as a place where you build and create, agree well with other ideas and artistic examples from the late sixties. One can compare the “lumberyard” playground in Frölunda with artist Palle Nielsen’s major exhibition “The Model – A Model for a Qualitative Society” at Moderna Museet of 1968. This an example of art which includes strong visions of the society. It is described that the kids were swimming in paint at the Museum of Modern Art and the kids’ hands-on creativity was seen as a slow but steady road to freedom and an active community.

#### The Model – A Model for a Qualitative Society

Today’s playground for the young children in Postivparken in Frölunda stands in sharp contrast to the playground at the Moderna Museet. Here everything is ready, things can only be chosen and used, not amend, build or re-build. Vague is that which is not complete, where there is a potential for an addition. The not-yet-ready is not something alien to us in an everyday life setting but is often perceived as something negative. The not finished requires both tolerance and forbearance with the undefined, all

boxes cannot be ticked and everything cannot have a box with a label on. Layout and design traditions has a dark side, an idea of an ultimate finality which promise to include all dreams and desires. Design is after all not necessarily the ultimate place for dreams and visions, especially not if the designs are pre-determined by someone else. It feels as if the tolerance around our commons and public spaces decreases. It is also a story about socio economical class, where and in which context things are done, for example if you own a piece of land and maybe have your own patio drinking a glass of wine together with your friends, or if you take the freedom of doing the same action on a city-owned (our common) ground. Coming back to the vague place THE ROUND RING, an ultimate public place and a vague space whose identity is unclear and therefore fragile. But even so, this is an excellent place for resting, secrets and explorative sketching. Vagueness make up a space where the division between the useful and the useless is becoming blurred and not distinguishable and this gray area and margin allows and enables me to add something, if only myself.

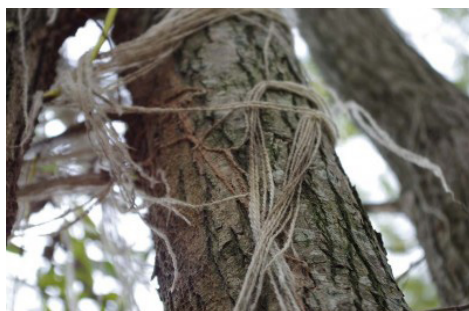


## stripping down vague material

epilogue

Posted Mon February 10, 2014 12:39:43

The time has come to strip down the material that has been part of the vague space for over a year. The time of moving on has come. We will create something with the material, the threads will re-appear as a textile trace of the space. A formation of a memory since the trees and the vague space will eventually disappear.



## **a long good-bye – an exhibition and film**

epilogue

Posted Mon February 10, 2014 13:12:59

The finishing process of the project “Vague Space – Vague Tissue” project by Vague Research Studios will include feedback to the community in Västra Frölunda. In September 2014 we will have an exhibition at Frölunda Kulturhus including a seminar, workshop and presentations. During the year spent at the vague space we have collected not only the material but also other traces from the space and a massive amount of photographs. The image archive now consists of 3500 images. From this archive we will make an animation a multimedia film named “Barnen, alkoholisterna och konstnärerna” (The children, the alcoholics and the artists) where we will collaborate with Gustaf Leijelind, Milena Karlsson and Pontus Gunve.