

PHOTO WORKSHOP AS A  
METHOD IN ART PRODUCTIONS

BRYNHILD BYE-TILLER (NO)

How can artists usefully engage with individuals or a community? What happens when participants becomes co-creators of artistic work? How to get access? How to challenge the concept of who is allowed to make visual representations in a public space? How does photography influence our understanding of both the role of women and women's opportunities? How to get to know the participants and make them relax in front of the camera lens?

### **Photo workshop as a method of producing art**

In a series of art projects, conducting a photo workshop has been the basis of research, production and exhibition. The workshops are conducted in cooperation with individuals, groups, artists, public institutions, organizations, associations and volunteers. People taking part in the workshops becomes a participant. The participants take part in front of and behind the camera, they acquire practical and technical skills in photography, they get an opportunity to develop their visual language and to be part of some kind of public display along with works by the artist. In dual exhibitions. They put up the exhibition, they guard the exhibition and they organize the vernissage and finissage. Through this participatory work process and numerous activities, the participants get to know each other well and form new networks. A characteristic of workshop-based projects is growth. Activities develop along the way and being a participant is about being conscious and being enriched through photographic activities. A workshop will also exchange knowledge and provide another kind of contact between the artist and participants rather than just a briefly visit.

Many of the most complex and exciting elements are invisible to audiences. They consist of relationships, compassion, patience and listening. They consist of really challenging oneself, as an artist, to give up conventions within the art-making process that subtly reinforce oppressive social dynamics. The theme of the projects is exploring the tension between participation, storytelling in photography and different kind of documentary presentation of the project.





PHOTO WORKSHOP AS A METHOD: From photo workshops in Norway, Europe and Middle East. Participants are refugees, asylum seekers, immigrants, students, photographers and artists.





PHOTO WORKSHOP AS A METHOD: An intensive, intimate and extended ten-day photo workshop for Finnish citizens, refugees and asylum seekers in Vaasa, laid the foundation for two exhibitions. One public display inside a wooden house structure built by the participants at the market square during Vappu & Spring Fair in Vaasa and the second one, an exhibition inside Mikola Gallery also put up by the participants.

[www.brynhildbye.no/bridging-zip-code.htm](http://www.brynhildbye.no/bridging-zip-code.htm)





PHOTO WORKSHOP AS A METHOD: An exhibition after a ten-day photo workshop for refugees and asylum seekers arranged by Namdalseid municipality in the summer of 2017.

More info: [www.facebook.com/Namdalseidfotokurs](https://www.facebook.com/Namdalseidfotokurs)



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