



The Independent AIR is an international non-profit cultural organisation based in Silkeborg, Denmark.

Since 2013 it offers emerging photographic and lens based artists a supportive and sustainable community of practice, production and experimentation through group residencies, master classes and a long-term network. In addition to the residency programme The Independent AIR organises exhibitions, artist talks and photographic workshops in Denmark and internationally.

The Independent AIR aims to create and promote meaningful relationships between young international artists. Through our activities we aim to give visibility to both Danish and international photography and lens based art. We aspire to challenge, rethink and develop the roles of photography and lens based art as well as conceptualise the permanent exchange between the image and the viewer.

The independent AIR is an environmentally sustainable cultural project at all levels. We run all activities as environmentally sustainable as possible, including climate friendly and organic food, use of renewable energy, green transportation, recycling, choice of environmentally friendly products and materials in artistic productions as well as compensation for CO2 emission from air travel by planting a forest.

The Independent AIR is an official project in collaboration with and financially supported by the city of Aarhus within the framework of the European Capital of Culture in 2017. The organisation is run by a small team supported by its board and advisory board and is financially sustained through private and governmental grants as well as sponsorships.

Sissel Thastum

Sissel Thastum is the Director and Co-founder of The Independent AIR. She is a graduate of Fatamorgana, The Danish School of Art and Documentary Photography in Copenhagen and holds a BFA in in Documentary Photography from University of Wales, Newport.

Since 2014 she has worked as an assistant director at Niels Borch Jensen Gallery & Editions in Berlin. She continuously works on her own photographic projects, and has exhibited internationally since 2011.

Maya Byskov

Maya Byskov Gadegaard is a social scientist with a profound interest in aesthetics and contemporary visual culture. She has worked as the director of a contemporary art gallery in Berlin specialised in photography, as well as a curator and editor for various publications and international festivals. She

holds an MSc in Economics and Development Studies from Copenhagen Business School and a BA in International Relations from the University of Southern Denmark.



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