PRESS INFORMATION

THE STENA FOUNDATION CULTURE SCHOLARSHIPS

2021

STEN A OLSSONS STIFTELSE FÖR FORSKNING OCH KULTUR

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THE STEN A OLSSON FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH AND CULTURE SUPPORTS THREE ARTISTS ACTIVE IN THE VISUAL ARTS, ACTING AND MUSIC WITH ITS 2021 SCHOLARSHIPS

This year, the Sten A Olsson Foundation for Research and Culture is celebrating its 25th anniversary. Over the past 25 years, the foundation has awarded many scholarships to promising talents in various art forms. An equally important part of the foundation's activities is the extensive donations that have been awarded over the years to various research projects, often with a multidisciplinary focus.

The 2021 scholarship awards ceremony will take place on Friday 3 December, starting at 6 pm in the main auditorium at the Gothenburg Concert Hall. During the celebrations, former recipients of the scholarship will perform and projects supported by the Stena Foundation will be presented. The audience will also be given the opportunity to meet the 2021 scholars in live performances. The jubilee award ceremony will be streamed via GSO Play and will be available to the public from Saturday 4 December.

The 2021 scholars, who each receive a scholarship of 300 000 SEK, are:

SOPRANO AND CONDUCTOR **BARBARA HANNIGAN**
ARTIST **EMANUEL RÖHSS**
HONORARY SCHOLAR, ACTRESS AND PRODUCER **ALICIA VIKANDER**

»It is with great pleasure that we present our two jubilee culture scholars and our honorary scholar. They are three exceptional artists with international careers and strong connections to Gothenburg.

Over the years, 155 cultural scholarships have been awarded. We follow the continued successes and development of previous scholars with great interest.«

MADELEINE OLSSON ERIKSSON
CHAIRWOMAN
STEN A OLSSON FOUNDATION
FOR RESEARCH AND CULTURE

CULTURE SCHOLARS AND HONORARY SCHOLAR 2021

BARBARA HANNIGAN

SOPRANO AND CONDUCTOR BARBARA HANNIGAN

»I have never understood the idea of keeping knowledge to myself. If I learn something new and exciting, I immediately want to share it with others, to pass it on. I, myself have had the privilege of experiencing that kind of generosity from my teachers, mentors and colleagues. Now it's my turn.«

There are many star sopranos on the international music arena and many conductors at the absolute top level. But, there is definitely only one Barbara Hannigan. Conductor/sopranos are a rarity. For most of her career, this year's music scholar, the Canadian born, multi talented Barbara Hannigan, has focused on 20th century composers and contemporary classical music. She has collaborated with countless conductors, orchestras, opera houses and composers, and has on numerous occasions been honoured with music written directly for her. Barbara Hannigan's commitment and interest in a new generation of musicians and singers has led her to create two successful international mentoring programs: *Equilibrium Young Artists* and *Momentum: Our Future, Now.*

MOTIVATION

The Canadian soprano and conductor, Barbara Hannigan, has attracted new listeners to classical and contemporary music with her unique combination of virtuosity, scenic charisma and artistic courage. For a new generation of singers and musicians, she is not only a role model, but also an active and generous co-creator through her two mentor projects *Equilibrium Young Artists* and *Momentum: Our Future, Now.*

Hannigan's repertoire is impressive. She has premiered over 80 new works, many composed directly for her. In Gothenburg, she has made a strong impact with several stunning programs including, among other things, performances of Stravinsky's opera *The Rake's Progress* and Gershwin's *Girl Crazy Suite*, where she also conducts and sings. Since 2019, she is Principal Guest Conductor at the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra.

For innovative interpretations, uncompromising commitment and an artistry in constant development, Barbara Hannigan is awarded a 2021 scholarship from the Sten A Olsson Foundation for Research and Culture.

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PHOTO
PETER CLAESSON

CULTURE SCHOLARS AND HONORARY SCHOLAR 2021

EMANUEL RÖHSS

ARTIST EMANUEL RÖHSS

»For me, the presence and freedom in rock climbing is related to the experiences of artistic work. As an artist, I myself decide what the work is about, and it is my responsibility to take care of it. The better I get at what I do, the more independent I can feel. But neither in the mountains nor in art do I have the last word.«

This year's art scholar, Emanuel Röhss, was born in Gothenburg but has lived and been based in Los Angeles since 2014. After attending KV Konstskola art school in Gothenburg, he moved to Ireland in 2008 to continue his art education at the National College of Art & Design in Dublin, where he received his bachelor's degree in 2011. He returned to Gothenburg to study for a year at Valand Art Academy, from where he obtained a second bachelor's degree. After his time in Dublin, Emanuel Röhss continued his studies in London, at the Royal College of Art, where he took his master's degree in 2013. Since then, and especially after moving to Los Angeles seven years ago, he has expanded his creativity and widened his artistic practice. Today he works with a combination of media where text, painting, sculpture, film, architectural elements and scenographic installations interact.

MOTIVATION

Emanuel Röhss explores the ability of the space to create fiction by unifying architecture, ornaments and visual culture. The creative process takes place in the meeting between sculpture, installation and moving images, but materials and medium are allowed to change depending on the specific conditions of the site. Decorative elements are detached from buildings or cinematic sequences; reborn as scenography and rebuilt into new worlds. With ambiguous installations, the viewer's experience of the surroundings changes and a borderland is established, with room for cultural memories and subconscious layers.

For an artistry that transforms space, stretches the boundaries of perception, and expands artistic expression, Emanuel Röhss is awarded a 2021 scholarship from the Sten A Olsson Foundation for Research and Culture.

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PHOTO
PETER CLAESSON

CULTURE SCHOLARS AND HONORARY SCHOLAR 2021

ALICIA VIKANDER

HONORARY SCHOLAR, ACTRESS AND PRODUCER ALICIA VIKANDER

»I love making movies, but rarely watch them when they are finished. The best part is sitting in the editing room and seeing how small, tiny shifts can change the reading of an entire scene.«

This year's honorary scholar, the actress and producer Alicia Vikander, grew up in Gothenburg and now has the whole world as her workplace. Since her breakthrough in 2010, with the Guldbagge award-winning lead role in Lisa Langseth's film, *Pure*, her international career has continued to expand.

Among the approximately 25 films in which Alicia Vikander has featured, you will find: *A Royal Affair* (2011), *Anna Karenina* (2012), *Testament of Youth* (2014), *Ex Machina* (2015) and *The Danish Girl* (2015), for which she won an Oscar for best supporting actress. Alicia started her own production company in 2016, *Vikarious Productions*, and has since started to collaborate with directors and producers at an early stage in the creative process. Alicia Vikander has chosen to donate the honorary scholarship grant to form the basis for a project in Gothenburg. This project will be announced during the jubilee evening on December 3.

MOTIVATION

Alicia Vikander's unique ability to form and give depth to the characters she portrays has led to her meteoric rise from her formative years in Gothenburg to the absolute top tier of the international film world.

With her direct and disarming appeal, she has portrayed a wide variety of characters, including royal yearning, tortured artistry, action heroines and freedom-seeking humanoid robots.

With award-winning roles in films such as *Pure*, *A Royal Affair* and *The Danish Girl*, she has reached a broad audience and established herself on the global film scene, where she is now firmly established as one of film history's great Swedish actors.

For her artistic presence and brilliance, her intense and nuanced role interpretations, Alicia Vikander is awarded the 2021 honorary scholarship from the Sten A Olsson Foundation for Research and Culture.

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PHOTO
PETER CLAESSON

EXHIBITION AT
GOTHENBURG MUSEUM OF ART
4 DEC 2021 – 20 MARCH 2022

STENA FOUNDATION
CULTURE SCHOLARSHIPS

2021

MONUMENTAL ARCHITECTURE, SEISMIC WAVES AND BUILDING BLOCKS FROM FICTIONAL WORLDS. THE GOTHENBURG MUSEUM OF ART ENDS THE YEAR WITH A LARGE-SCALE INSTALLATION BY EMANUEL RÖHSS WHERE MOVING IMAGES, AUDIO, LIGHT AND SCENOGRAPHY TRANSFORM THE SPACE.

On December 4, an exhibition opens at the Gothenburg Art Museum by the artist, Emanuel Röhss, this year's recipient of the Stena Foundation culture scholarship in art and design. The exhibition features site-specific installations and an essay film presented to an audience for the first time. The presentation at the Gothenburg Museum of Art is one of the most wide-ranging projects that Emanuel Röhss has carried out for a separate exhibition. Frank Lloyd Wright's mythical buildings in the architectural style of Mayan Revival in Los Angeles are explored, as well as the architecture from the tercentennial Jubilee Exhibition in Gothenburg in 1923.

EMANUEL RÖHSS (b. 1985) was educated at the National College of Art & Design in Dublin and the Valand Art Academy in Gothenburg. He has a master's degree in free art from the Royal College of Arts in London and is now active as an artist in Los Angeles. Röhss often works site-specifically and he chooses materials and medium depending on the project. The themes of the works often oscillate between imaginary environments and physical places, the past and the future, fiction and reality.

In connection with the exhibition, a comprehensive catalogue has also been produced with extensive personal interviews and rich photographic material, portraying all the culture scholars of this year. Moreover, short documentary films with all the scholars are shown in the exhibition and provide further opportunities for in-depth study.

PRESS INVITATION
Thursday 2 December, 11.00 am. Stena hall,
Gothenburg Museum of Art. The artist will attend.

EXHIBITION
The exhibition opens on Saturday 4 December 2021.

PHOTO
MATTHEW DOYLE
STILL FROM MONSTER DIALECTICS

ABOUT THE STEN A OLSSON FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH AND CULTURE

STENA FOUNDATION CULTURE SCHOLARSHIPS

2021

The STEN A OLSSON FOUNDATION for Research and Culture was founded in 1996 in conjunction with shipowner, Sten A Olsson's 80th birthday. The foundation is celebrating its 25th jubilee anniversary this year. Through the foundation, the family provides support for research and cultural activities, primarily in Gothenburg and West Sweden.

The jubilee anniversary has been celebrated in a variety of ways throughout the year, including the inauguration of a new visualization laboratory at Universeum, several major exhibitions at the Gothenburg Museum of Art and a newly written musical at the Gothenburg Opera based on the music of Håkan Hellström.

»I look back on the Stena Foundation's first 25 years with pride. We have had the privilege of following many interesting projects from idea to implementation in research, as well as numerous brilliant cultural initiatives. Behind each project are extremely committed and talented people. It has been fantastic to be able to bring their visions to life. Together, we have shared a motivation to reach out and make a difference for many people. Since we have our roots here in West Sweden, there has also a been a desire from the beginning to work as good citizens; to share and to give back when we have the opportunity,« says Madeleine Olsson Eriksson, Chairwoman of Sten A Olsson Foundation for Research and Culture.

The Stena Foundation has made several different contributions to research and culture. Here is a summary of some current donations:

- **THE GOTHENBURG OPERA ("KÄRLEK SKONAR INGEN"):** 9 000 000 SEK
- **UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG:** 42 000 000 SEK
- **BRIS:** 3 000 000 SEK
- **BERÄTTARMINISTERIET:** 2 000 000 SEK
- **FÖREBILDARNA:** 11 000 000 SEK
- **ACADEMY OF MUSIC AND DRAMA/ARTIST IN RESIDENCE:** 1 500 000 SEK
- **GÖTEBORG BAROQUE:** 3 500 000 SEK
- **STENA INDUSTRY INNOVATION LABORATORY; SII-LAB:** 21 000 000 SEK
- **RYGGMÄRGSSKADECENTRUM:** 34 000 000 SEK
- **THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FESTIVAL GOTHENBURG INAUGURATION:** 4 000 000 SEK (2019 – 2021)
- **UNIVERSEUM:** 50 000 000 SEK (25 + 25 M SEK)
- **THIS YEAR'S CULTURE AND HONORARY SCHOLARSHIPS:** 900 000 SEK

EXHIBITIONS AT THE GOTHENBURG MUSEUM OF ART 2021

- APRIL 20 – JUNE 20: EXHIBITION WITH THE 2020 RECIPIENTS OF THE STENA FOUNDATION CULTURE SCHOLARSHIP WITH THE ARTISTS CARL HAMMOUD, HANNA JÄRLEHED AND MARTIN SOLYMAR
- JUNE 12 – SEPTEMBER 19: FOCUS ON EUROPE – NEW OBJECTIVITIES 1919–1939. THE EXHIBITION WAS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH A DONATION FROM THE STEN A OLSSON FOUNDATION
- OCTOBER 30 – FEBRUARY 13 2022: JUBILEE EXHIBITION WITH SELECTED WORKS FROM PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS OF THE STEN A OLSSON FOUNDATION'S CULTURE SCHOLARSHIPS
- DECEMBER 4 – MARCH 20 2022: EXHIBITION WITH THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2021 STEN A OLSSON FOUNDATION'S CULTURE SCHOLARSHIPS IN ART AND DESIGN

During the jubilee year, the following activities have also been supported: Artscape with mural painting in Biskopsgården, Styrsö chamber music days, Lovskolan in Hammarkullen and Hjällbo, KIM with music experiences for people with functional variations, Arabian Theatre's children's performance *The Heroines*, Nobel Prize Museum on Tour, inauguration of the international science festival in Gothenburg, Dance Remaining in conjunction with Dance day.

Since 1996, when the Stena Foundation was founded, decisions have been taken to distribute over 550 million SEK in support for specific projects; a total of 155 scholarship recipients in culture, as well as 320 master's scholarships as travel grants.

WWW.STENASTIFTELSEN.SE
25TH ANNIVERSARY 2021 | STENA FOUNDATION

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PHOTOS CAN BE DOWNLOADED HERE
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