

## **The motivation**

by The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts

Visual artist Signe Guttormsen is in 2023 awarded The Eckersberg Medal with the following motivation:

Ever since she began her photographic explorations at the Art Academy, Signe Guttormsen has been interested in what makes a "site" a site. How does a site get an identity?

This interest has naturally led Signe Guttormsen to increasingly focus her work on site-specific art projects. The past 10-15 years Signe Guttormsen has realised a long series of significant site-specific and building integrated art works throughout the country.

Art works, which are all results of an artistic dialogue with the specific site. A process where Signe Guttormsen listens to the site, investigates and highlights its architecture, materials, functions and history as well as its mental and meaning-based capacities. The site's identity is thereby defined in parallel with the creative development and forming of the building integrated art work.

Parts of elements and details of the site's shapes and different meanings are displaced and enter into new functions and relations. Thereby the art wedges itself into life and creates new tactilities and understandings between the site and ourselves.

One example is when Signe Guttormsen lets a hand slide in Banedanmark's (Rail Net Denmark) new control tower in Fredericia take form after a railway track and leads us into a bodily understanding of the site's function and logic. Or when she at Ringsted High School incorporates pieces of the students' shared text messages into the gymnasium's acoustic wall panels, making the students' voices a concrete part of shaping the school's physical frames.

For her sharp, contextual artistic work Signe Guttormsen is awarded The Eckersberg Medal in 2023.