



PASS newsletter

Center for Practice-based Art Studies

Dear reader,

With this belated newsletter from The Novo Nordisk Foundation Centre for Practice-based Art Studies (PASS) at the University of Copenhagen, we would like to tell you about our autumn activities, both those we have completed and those we have in the pipeline. This semester has been unusually busy for us so far. We have been teaching, giving lectures, going on research trips, participating in conferences and seminars, planning podcasts, writing articles and book chapters, participating in committee work, holding PhD defences, developing new collaborations, engaging in exhibition and archival work, and much more. Many of the things we do individually are not listed on our website, but remember that you can find the full programme here with an overview of the courses and events we organise ourselves and which you can participate in, although sometimes with a limited number of places available. In this context, please note that although many of the activities we offer – seminars, reading groups, masterclasses, workshops, study trips and more – are designed to be relevant to PhD students with backgrounds in museum and curatorial work, artistic practice or both, most of our programme is open to other interested parties, whether they are museum employees, curators, visual artists, academics or others. Send us an email and ask if you have questions concerning our program.



Impressions from PASS Intensive Residency Training Course, Herning, September 2025. Photo: PASS

Intensive Residency in Herning

You may not think of the central Jutland town of Herning as the obvious place to hold a week-long seminar on practice-based art studies. Nevertheless, that is exactly what we did when we held our first intensive residency at the end of September, with fifteen places for a truly global group of participants. And the location, Højhuset Kulturhotel in the former folk high school building in the Birk district, was perfect, not only because of the wonderful physical surroundings in Højhuset, but also because of the remarkable interweaving of post-war avant-garde art, political utopia and the textile industry, which is an important part of the city's history. It is no coincidence that HEART Herning Museum of Contemporary Art, Carl-Henning Pedersen & Else Alfelt's Museum and the former shirt factory Angli are located next door to each other here. We took a closer look at this and drew comparisons with artistic interpretations of stories and political conflicts related to textile factories in Burkina Faso and France. During the five intense days, we covered a wide range of other topics and issues within the PASS research strands. We discussed and shared research methods, talked about working conditions, self-organisation, the museum as method, archival work, writing practices and more. The week-long Intensive Residency is a new format for PASS. Our aim has been to create longer courses where participants can explore several topics together and also get to know each other better than is often the case in the one or two-day workshops we have held so far. The response from participants has encouraged us to continue with this model. In future, we will hold one or two of these seminars a year, but the frequency will depend on whether we also organise conferences and other seminars in collaboration with others, e.g. our involvement in [Positioning. A Symposium on Curatorial Thinking in the Nordic-Baltic Region and Beyond](#), organized by Publics in Helsinki in September and October.

Workshops and masterclasses

The workshop format has not been abolished, of course. This semester, we have three workshops on the programme. The first took place in mid-September and was initiated by PhD student Ida Bencke, who, in connection with the exhibition project *Hosting Lands*, had invited artist Dharmendra Prasad from Buxar, India, to practise 'Harvest philosophy' with the participants. Harvest philosophy is part of the pedagogical programme of Harvest School. It is realised from damaged agrarian processes, rural visions, and cultural time practices in reaction to capitalist expansion and extractive infrastructures implemented in rural areas and running from the Global South to the Global North. The second workshop will take place on 11 November and will be led by Marsha Meskimmon, Novo Nordisk Foundation Visiting Professor at the Department of Arts and Cultural Studies. It will be a workshop for those scholars whose research includes a written engagement with 'art' and addresses the implications of shifting prepositions – from writing *about* art to writing *with* or *through* art.

With the masterclass '[Ways of Making and Knowing in Plant Humanities: Understanding in Visual Cultures of Vegetation](#)', we take a closer look at an area that many of us are interested in and in which PASS Associate Professor Martha Fleming is a leading expert: plant humanities. This masterclass is linked to the conference of the same name and is also connected to two ongoing special exhibitions at Ordrupgaard and the Hirschsprung Collection. It has been developed in collaboration with Aarhus University and Associate Professor Anette Vandsø and will take place at various locations in Copenhagen from 1 December to 4 December.



Impressions from PASS Intensive Residency Training Course, Herning, September 2025. Photo: PASS

Study trip and summer school in 2026

We will very soon be ready to announce next year's study trip. At this stage, we can reveal that the trip will be to Ghana, where we will visit three cities. The purpose of the study trip will be to explore how artists, curators, activists, and cultural workers in Ghana reimagine and reshape the infrastructures of art and community life.

Under the theme *Modes of Organising*, we will visit independent art spaces, collectives, and grassroots initiatives that engage with artistic production, curatorial experimentation, and communal sustainability. From urban performance hubs in Accra to collaborative research centres in Kumasi and artist-led projects in Tamale. The trip will take place in the last week of February 2026.

PASS is organising a conference/summer school in 2026 entitled "Epistemic Equity - What counts as knowledge and what knowledge counts?" This is being done in collaboration with [the European Summer School for Cultural Studies \(ESSCS\)](#), a consortium of eight European universities. We will soon be able to send out a call for papers, and needless to say, we dream of participants from many corners of cultural analysis practice, including artists and curators. The summer school is not intended to be a purely academic event, but also, in keeping with the overall theme, to invite experiences from different practices and methods into the discussion of what epistemic justice can be and mean today.



PASS Deep Publishing, 2025. Deep Publishing is an editorial and publishing process conceived and facilitated by Åbake. This Publication has been edited on 8 October 2025 by PASS and Benjamin Reichen.

PASS Publications

The question of publishing practice, knowledge and research is central to PASS. We are each actively involved in the established channels and infrastructures for making things public – like museums, publishers, radio, etc. – but as a centre we are also interested in exploring and testing unconventional forms of publication in print, through sound, in exhibitions and in the spaces between established institutional frameworks. In this context, we have been working for some time on a publishing strategy, preparatory work that will ensure that we do not just choose easy and convenient solutions but hopefully can produce publications based on what is our core issue and mission, namely epistemic equity and methodological polyphony. We envision publications where the editing process and creation become part of the finished result, where textual and visual elements have equal weight and significance, where footnotes can consist of images, and where the publication can resemble a poster or an exhibition. The work is not yet complete. But we will soon be ready to say more about how we will be working with publications in the future.

Mikkel Bogh
Head of PASS