

TEMA 9  
The Future of Denmark  
YNKB  
Minority Report Århus 2004  
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**Danmark er en interessant land.  
Hvor meget interessant er I?**

**TEMA 9**

**YNKB on Minority Report**



**Aarhus Festival of contemporary Art 2004 presents:**

***Minority Report***  
***Challenging Intolerance in Contemporary Denmark***

an interdisciplinary exhibition project at different locations in Aarhus and environs, Denmark September 25 – October 24, 2004

co-curated by Trine Rytter Andersen, Kirsten Dufour, Tone O. Nielsen & Anja Raithel in collaboration with the exhibition participants

**Minority Report:** *Challenging Intolerance in Contemporary Denmark* is an interdisciplinary exhibition, which investigates the premises for the more outspoken intolerance towards and among ethnic minorities in Denmark during recent years. Co-curated by independent curators Trine Rytter Andersen, Kirsten Dufour, Tone O. Nielsen, and Anja Raithel, the show is the first in a series of recurring international art exhibitions, which the City Council of Aarhus has initiated under the heading *Aarhus Festival of Contemporary Art*.

**Minority Report** unfolds in different locations in Aarhus and environs, Denmark, during the period of September 25 – October 24, 2004 and presents 63 Danish-based and international visual artists and filmmakers as well as 53 theoreticians, politicians, musicians, performers, networks, and cultural organizations from Denmark and abroad. All of the 116 participants have, from very different social and political backgrounds, worked thoroughly with the question of intolerance.

**Minority Report** is taking its starting point in the current situation of Denmark, *Minority Report* wishes to delve into the increasing legitimization of intolerance and further investigate its grounds and conditions, mechanisms and functions, directions and forms. The exhibition sets forth to explore what social and political developments have paved the way for the increasing xenophobia in Denmark; which ideological and psychological operations it rests on; and how it is practiced within the social, political, educational, cultural, and juridical fields.

YNKB participates with

## The Future of Denmark

A work in progress produced in collaboration with students at Aarhus Municipal Language Centre. Courtesy of the artists and the students of Aarhus Municipal Language Centre. "The Future of Denmark" expresses the expectations, hopes, and conceptions of a number of immigrant students enrolled at Aarhus Municipal Language Centre; how they regard their new life in Denmark and their possibilities for affecting social change. In collaboration with the students, YNKB will produce different proposals and projects for affecting social change to be presented at Aarhus Municipal Language Centre and in the Satellites: the waiting room in the Immigration office at Aarhus Police; Town Hall; The Toilet Building behind The Equestrian Hall, Aarhus; Nørre Allé/Vesterbro Torv, Aarhus; and Aarhus Municipal Language Centre, Aarhus.

»The future of Danmark has many faces. A cultural one, an economic, a conservative, an industrial, an animal friendly one, you name it. All pieces off the bigger picture on the future of Denmark.

We picked the future of communication between immigrants and natives, regarding the ability of immigrants in influencing the public space. We start our research in sound (spoken word) to end it in form (text, object, action or installation etc.).

We don't just want to make visible their handicapped communication, because they are not yet fully educated in the Danish language. Or just objectify their daily difficulties, solutions, disagreements and successes. We want just as much to show the secret dreams that immigrants have about the future of the public space. We will do so by asking them to reveal them to us. And together with us, they'll find ways to visualize them. The new and exciting thing in this set up is that normally immigrants hardly ever get an opportunity to actively effect the public space, let alone publicly to propose ideas about its future.

Two reasons the invisibility of emigrants in the public space:

One, immigrants hide themselves, their opinions. They want to be as invisible as possible. And avoid as much as possible public attention. Two, the native people have no real interest in what immigrants have to say, think, or dream, in general, but especially regarding the public space. More often than not, native people simply don't consider it as a possibility that immigrants have or should have an opinion about the public space.«

## Locations

- 1) The waiting room in Aarhus Police, Immigration office, Fredensgade 19.
- 2) Mayor Louise Gade, Aarhus Town Hall.
- 3) The Toilet Building behind The Equestrian Hall.
- 4) Banner across the street where Nørre Allé run into Vesterbro Torv.
- 5) Exhibition in Aarhus Municipal Language Center, Vestergade 72, open Monday – Thursday, 9:30 am – 3 pm. Friday, 9:30 am – 2 pm. Closed during the weekend.

## Projects

- 1) Students from Aarhus Municipal Language Centre and YNKB address Aarhus Police to initiate a dialogue on how to improve the poorly conditions of the waiting room in the Immigration office at Aarhus Police – compared to the waiting room for the danes in Aarhus Police Headquarters. The Department for Foreigners is the place where aliens apply for residency in Denmark .
- 2) Students from Aarhus Municipal Language Centre and YNKB offer Mayor Louise Gade a gift. The gift consists of a collaboration during which artists/students, a taylor of other ethnic background, and the mayor together will create a dress inspired by colors, cuts, and patterns from other countries
- 3) Students from Aarhus Municipal Language Centre and YNKB paint the Toilet Building behind The Equestrian Hall inspired by the way the Ndebele people paint their houses
- 4) Students from Aarhus Municipal Language Centre and YNKB make a banner to be hung across the street where Nørre Allé run into Vesterbro Torv
- 5) Students from Aarhus Municipal Language Centre and YNKB produce an exhibition in which all the activities in conjunction with *Minority Report* are presented. The exhibition shows the processes of the individual projects, the actual projects as well as ideas for other projects.



1) YNKB and students address Aarhus Police to initiate a dialogue on how to improve the poor conditions in the waiting room in the Immigration office at Aarhus Police.

The waiting room in Aarhus Police immigration office is a very small room, ca. 20 m<sup>2</sup>. 20 000 foreigners have to pass through this room pr year. It is open 3 hours daily. People with different cultural background has to sit very closely in this small room, and when they are filling out official papers, they have to stand with their asses in the nose of the nearest persons. It is experienced as very humiliating. There is no toilet and no water, though the room gets very hot and with bad ventilation, when there is many people in the room. Compared to this room there is another waiting room for the danes. It is ca. 100 m<sup>2</sup>, here is room enough, good chairs and small tables.

Students from Aarhus Municipal Language Center and YNKB decided to open a dialog with the police and asked for a meeting, which they had the 21.september 2004 with inspector Jan Gregersen.

The students had some very modest proposals to improve the conditions in the waiting room:

1. Bigger room, more light, better ventilation
2. Water drinking automat
3. Music or video with information about living in Denmark
4. More polite and kind milieu, also to elder and handicapped persons
5. Toilet
6. Poster with informations about how to fill out the official papers.
7. Smoking prohibited (which it is, but some smoke anyway)

After the meeting, where the police inspector promised to improve the conditions for the waiting room, afraid that nothing would happen, students from Aarhus Municipal Language Center and YNKB discussed what to do further and went into contact with Nestle Water Powwow. Nestle Water Powwow promised to sponsor a drinking automat and water suply for one year for the waiting room. We returned to the police with the offer. First the Head of the police rejected the proposal, not wanting drinking automats into police stations in Aarhus, and not being allowed to receive gifts, but we succeed in persuading them to accept the drinking automat explaining that this was an art piece not a gift and it was'nt for the police but for the people in the waiting room they served.







Alle ansøgere – der ikke er specielt tilsagte eller har en aftale med personalet – SKAL trække et ekspeditionsnummer.

Der må KUN TRÆKKES 1 NUMMER pr. ansøger.

Kontoret LUKKER kl. 1200 (torsdage kl. 1700) præcist.

Ikke ekspederede numre henvises til næste åbningsdag – med fortrinnsret de første 15 minutter af åbningstiden. (Behold nummeret).





**Students from Aarhus Municipal Language Center** meet police officer from Aarhus Police, Kk Jan Gregersen.  
From left: Heidi Contaoi, Elizabeth Gavor, Susan Yeo Lindholst and Kk Jan Gregersen.

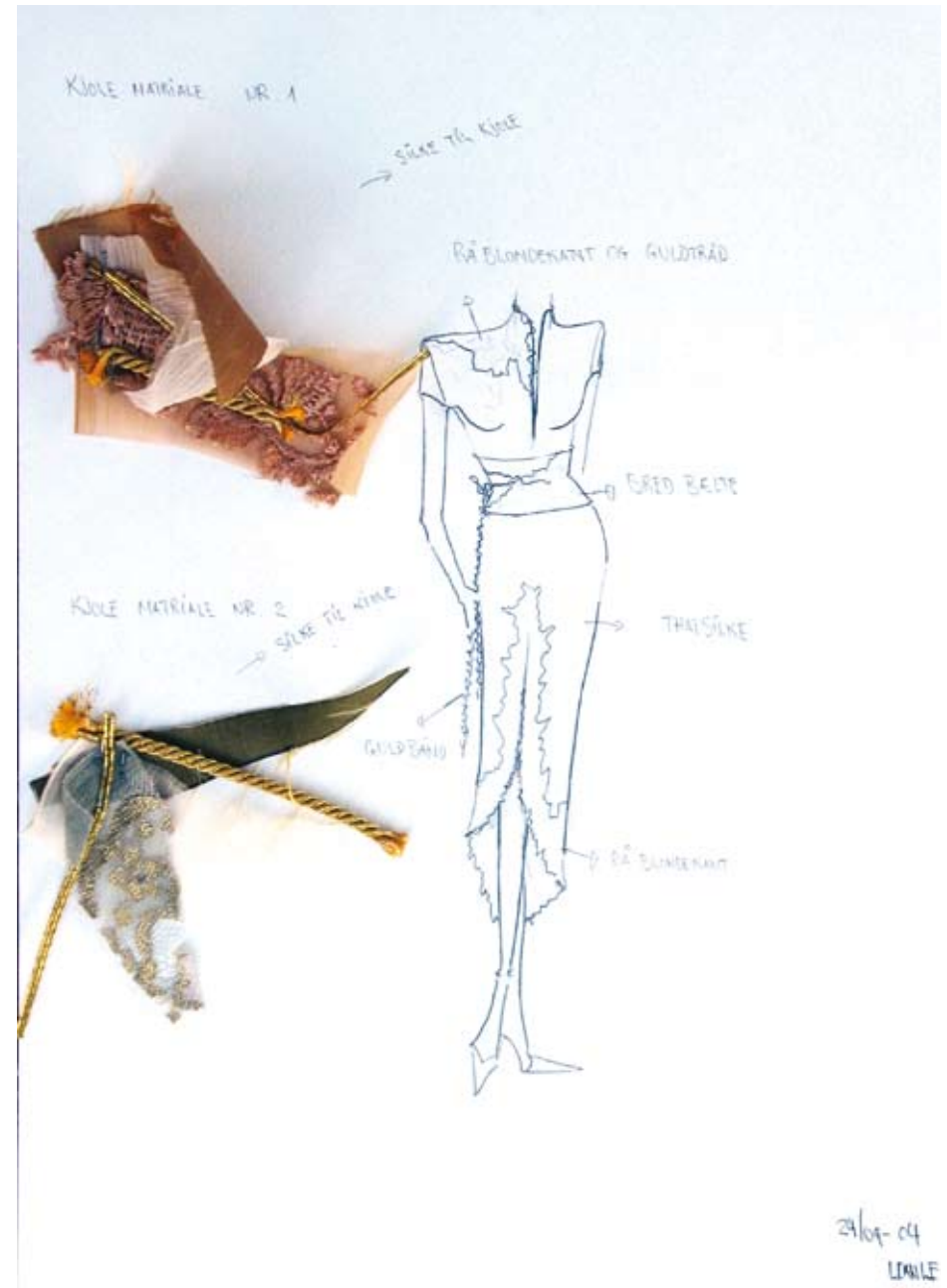
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## Mayor Louise Gade

Students from Aarhus Municipal Language Centre and YNKB offer Mayor Louise Gade a gift. The gift consists of a collaboration during which artists/students, a taylor of other ethnic background, and the mayor together will create a dress inspired by colors, cuts, and patterns from other countries.

»Two reasons for the invisibility of emigrants in public space: One, immigrants hide themselves, their opinions. They want to be as invisible as possible. And avoid as much as possible public attention. Two, the native people have no real interest in what immigrants have to say, think, or dream, in general, but especially regarding the public space. More often than not, native people simply donnot consider it as a possibility that immigrants have or should have an opinion about the public space.«

The Mayor of Aarhus fully understood the idea and happily accepted the gift. This event got a lot attention from the medias.







Students from Aarhus Municipal Language Center and Taylor discuss the sketches for the dress with Mayor Louise Gade. From Left: Student Susan Yeo Lindholm, Taylor Loan Le, Mayor Louise Gade and student Elizabeth Gavor,



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## The Toilet Building behind The Equestrian Hall.

Students from Aarhus Municipal Language Centre and YNKB  
paint the Toilet Building behind The Equestrian Hall  
inspired by the way the Ndebele people paint their houses.









4) Students from Aarhus Municipal Language Centre and YNKB make a banner to be hung across the street where Nørre Allé run into Vesterbro Torv. The text on the banner says:  
Denmark is an interesting country.  
How interesting are you?

A red banner is stretched across a street, positioned in front of a multi-story brick building with many windows. The banner features white text in Danish. A street lamp is visible on the building behind the banner. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

**Danmark er en interessant land.  
Hvor meget interessant er I?**

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## Presentation

At an event Tuesday the 19th October on Aarhus Municipal Language Centre the students and YNKB presented the dress for the mayor Louise Gade and the water drinking automat for inspector Jan Gregersen, Aarhus Police.







The drinking water automaton in the waiting room for immigrants on the police station.



Mayor Louise Gade in the council chamber, Aarhus Town Hall



**Students from Aarhus Municipal Language Center:** Elizabeth Gavor, Heidi Contaoi, Cengiz Alkan, Susan Yeo Lindholst  
**Artists from YNKB:** Gillion Grantsaant, Finn Thybo Andersen, Kirsten Dufour and Art historian Iben Mosbæk Hofstede

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Minority Report  
Aarhus Police, Kk Jan Gregersen  
Mayor Luise Gade, Aarhus

The dress for the Mayor is created by  
Roses Skråedderi /Loan Le  
J.M. Mørksgade 1  
8000 Århus C

Banner sponsored by V1 flag, Ebeltoft

Drinking Automat sponsored by Nestle Water Powwow

Technical equipment sponsored by Calamus

The photo of mayor Louise Gade in the council chamber is by  
Photographer Ole Pedersen.  
All other photos by YNKB.

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YNKB editions:  
(Published in English and Danish)

YNKB THEME 1: Manifest, YNKB's hearing proposal to the city of Copenhagen. 2002.

YNKB THEME 2: Artists Palle Nielsen and Jens Dreier from Red Rose 2 visit YNKB. Palle Nielsen tells about his exhibition at the Modern Museum, Stockholm, 1968, where the whole museum was turned into a big playground. Jens Dreier tells about Red Rose 2, a kindergarten that takes city children to the country each day. 2002  
[Download Theme 2](#)

YNKB THEME 3: Opera singer Mads Elung-Jensen, accordion player Geier Draugsvoll, the Arabic orchestra Al-Anhar, and experimental musician Henning Frimann, concert and jam session at YNKB. A photo album. 2002  
[Download Theme 3](#)

YNKB THEME 4: Christiana de Melo visits YNKB with a street performance. A photo album. 2003

YNKB THEME 5: A police raid at Bumzen. 2002

YNKB THEME 6: Builder playgrounds in Copenhagen. A photo album. 2003

YNKB THEME 7: The Office of Sustainable Societies. A project for Roskilde Museum of Contemporary Art, Public Globality Garden and YNKB. 2004  
[Download Theme 7](#)

YNKB THEME 8: Art freight. \*2004, 50 kr.

YNKB THEME 9: Denmark is an interesting country. How interesting are you? YNKB at Minority Report, Århus, 2004.  
[Download Theme 9](#)

YNKB THEME 10: The Freight halls speaks  
[Downloade Theme 10](#)

YNKB THEME 11: Use and restore the Freight halls and Railroad Property at Nørrebro Station. Quotations and pictures from YNKB's three programs for tv-tv  
[Downloade Theme 11](#)  
[Downloade text in english for Theme 11,](#)

YNKB THEME 12: Byvandring 1968