



**Carl Eldh's Studio Museum**  
**Katrine Helmersson**  
**May 1 - September 28, 2014**



Carl Eldh's Studio Museum is situated like a time capsule in Bellevue Park just off of Roslagstull. When the building was erected in 1919 as the studio of Carl Eldh, it was situated on the outskirts of town. Today, it is integrated within the steadily growing city of Stockholm, and with the expanding Haga City in the near vicinity.

With the restructuring of the city, old, artistic environments of this kind have disappeared. Eldh's studio, however, is still here presenting a unique perspective on the working habits of an early twentieth-century sculptor. Such a heritage also presents an obligation. The aim of the museum is not only to further knowledge about Carl Eldh, his work and age but also to constitute a center for sculpture, where the conditions of the plastic arts from different periods can be highlighted and discussed. Through exhibitions and events, the museum explores and develops this sometimes neglected artistic field. Since 2007, we offer eight different sculpture walks in the city of Stockholm. Last year, we took yet another step by exhibiting contemporary sculpture in the museum – a most well-received show with Charlotte Gyllenhammar.

This year, we are pleased to be able to continue this new endeavor with an exhibition by Katrine Helmersson, whose work is informed and enriched by both contemporary and classical sculpture, as well as West African visual culture. In Carl Eldh's studio, Helmersson's multifaceted art is provided with an environment it can brace against and in this sculptural meeting new perspectives arise on both her and Eldh's work.

Thematically, Katrine Helmersson's show, *Amulets Against the Evil Eye*, is based on one of the world's oldest living superstitions. The evil eye is often associated with envious and malicious looks, but Helmersson is not just interested in the phenomenon as such; rather her work develops from observing the play between forces and counterforces through different techniques and materials. Images, sculptures, amulets and other magically charged objects are woven together into a complex entity.

The main piece of the exhibition is a site-specific installation where a large number of reliefs of eyes in different sizes stare at the spectator from the walls and floor. Helmersson's work leaves no-one unseen, but greets the visitor, instead, with gazes as threatening as they are reassuring.

From this installation, the exhibition unfolds into the Studio Museum. With works like *Totem*, an assemblage using stacks of magical eyes, and the floating fabric sculpture *Amour; le rouge et le noir*, the artist turns towards other aspects of the magical and the ritualistic. As in a crime of passion, we are reminded of one of the evil eye's most important sources of origin – spurned love.

Katrine Helmersson (born 1958) was trained at the Royal Institute of Art in Stockholm, and the Faculty of Fine Arts in Baroda, Gujarat, India. Her many solo shows include *Cherchez la femme!*, Gallery Andréhn-Schiptjenko, Stockholm (2010), *Dark Currents*, Uppsala Art Museum, Uppsala (2005), and Gallery Brändström & Stene, Stockholm (2003). In 2012 Helmersson participated in two biennials: with the solo exhibition *Sombres Courants* in the Dak'Art OFF, Dakar, Senegal, and with a work in the International Sculpture Biennial of Borås, Sweden. She has also participated in a number of group exhibitions, such as *Amour*, Le Festival sur Le Fleuve Niger, Segou, Mali (2014), *Lust och last*, Nationalmuseum, Stockholm (2011), *Drömdiken*, The Museum of Sketches, Lund (2006), Moderna Museet c/o Malmö Konsthall, Malmö (2003), *Plingeling*, Magasin 3 Stockholm Konsthall, Stockholm (2003) and *Nyskapande retro*, Wanås Art, Knislinge (2001).

For the exhibition a catalogue with an essay by Annika Öhrner, Ph.D. and senior lecturer in Art History at Södertörn University, has been produced. An artist talk with Katrine Helmersson and Annika Öhrner will take place in the museum on May 15, at 6pm.

For more information, and images, please visit our website or contact:

Åsa Cavalli-Björkman  
Director

asa.c-b@eldhsatelje.se, +46 (0)73-941 09 11

Petra Gröminger  
Curator

petra.g@eldhsatelje.se, +46 (0)73-691 46 89



CARL ELDH SATELJÉMUSEUM

LÖGEBODAVÄGEN 10, SE-113 47 STOCKHOLM  
08-612 65 60 INFO@ELDHSATELJE.SE WWW.ELDHSATELJE.SE  
OPENING HOURS: THURSDAY-SUNDAY (MAY AND SEPTEMBER), TUESDAY-SUNDAY (JUNE-AUGUST)  
11AM-4PM, WITH ADMISSION FOR GUIDED TOURS EVERY HOUR IN SWEDISH,  
AND AT 1.30PM IN ENGLISH. OUTSIDE THESE TIMES, GROUP TOURS BY APPOINTMENT.