

A Retrospective About Jan Bäcklund

2014

A TOVES PRODUCTION BY:

idea HONZA HOECK tables JAN BÄCKLUND costumes EMMA SHERIDAN JETTE HYE JIN
MORTENSEN JÓHAN MARTIN CHRISTIANSEN HANNAH HEILMANN FEAT. SIMON LATZ table con-
struction GUSTAV SANDEGAARD movie HONZA HOECK subtitles & translation MARIE THAMS
LINE EBERT ULLA ERIKSEN assistance & installation HEINE THORHAUGE MATHIASSEN LUKAS
FLYGARE ULLA ERIKSEN JACOB JESSEN LARS ARNFRED FYNBOE LINE CLAUSEN PEDERSEN
coordination & fundraising HONZA HOECK

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Throughout the last 20 years swedish artist Jan Bäcklund has developed an obsessive database practice, devouring and classifying factual as well as exotic data about everything from philosophical theories to a coffee mug. Giorgio Vasari undoubtedly is struck with awe, glancing out of his own position in the database, looking around in the neighbourhood of his new home, amongst the 2,5 million other posts comprising sincere facts, paranoid information and trivia in an inverted world inhabited by 16 different ways of life.

While spilling his time into this vast reservoir of data, spending as much as 12 hours a day typing the world into predestined columns, Jan Bäcklund prepares for his database to launch as an online paranoid gaming environment, ready for others to come join him - although the price for entering the game might show itself to be very high indeed. The entrance to the interface will be found on the website of his "reluctant and dilettantish antiquarian bookshop", selling books out of the shelves in his apartment, "preferring to buy rather than sell books". Like a secret backdoor to a speakeasy during prohibition times, the visitor clicks an almost invisible icon, and enters the inverted globe of JB, finding herself stuck on the inside of a sphere, like tapestry sitting on the outside of a suitcase.





16 LIFETIMES
JB
ONE GAME







by their
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