

Hidden threats in Industrial cities

When I lived in Ystadsgatan-Lantmannagatan, Malmö in the early 1980s, I felt on several occasions a strong caustic smell that seemed to come from the former PLM factory at Lantmannagatan. Later came reports that the children and staff at a nursery nearby had unexplained rashes and breathing difficulties.

My grandfather worked in a paint factory in Austria as a refugee after World War II. After each working day, all workers got a liter of milk to drink in order to minimize the risk of lead poisoning. In Austria, there was also a coal mine where my father worked. In a mine gallery burned an unquenchable fire that raised the temperature in the other aisles where the work was going on to about 40 degrees Celsius.

Perhaps others who lived and worked in industrial cities have similar experiences?

Stadexfactory in time and space

In the animation fragmented the factory and it resurrects again and again in a speed close to the heartbeat rhythms. I have tried to depict the light conditions during the days and nights of different times.

Spirits and demons detaching from the houses' shadows. A digital movable portrait or landscape painting. Visually, it can resemble impressionists way of relating to color, space and urban landscapes from a cartooning. The factory is an intimidating flower that slowly blossoms, withers and blooms again. It is like a living creature that transform, voyage in time and space. A reminder of the industrial cities invisible and perhaps forgotten threat.

It is one of the factories in Malmo handling dangerous substances. According to the authorities and plant management is the probability nonexistent that an accident should occur. Much work has been done to improve safety and minimize risk. Can the management of toxic substances in the central parts of an industrial city be legitimized because the risks are absent?

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map: www.gifffristad.nu