



**Pressrelease 2009-09-22**

**[approach at sea] is an international and interactive art- and environment project going offshore on the Baltic Sea with a sailing yacht from Sweden.**

A sailingboat, contemporary artists, the environment of the Baltic Sea and the countries around it. These are the components of the international project [approach at sea] starting the summer of 2009. The project is planned to continue for three years.

The aim of the pilot project 2009 has been to sail to meet future partners and participants in Poland and the Baltic states, and to meet with artists, people and organisations engaged in the environment of the Baltic Sea. The aim is also to try out a method of experiencing the sea by being on it together in quite a small boat.

[approach at sea] in summer of 2009 has visited Gdansk in Poland, Klaipeda in Lithuania, Liepaja, Ventspils and Riga in Latvia, and the little island Ruhnu in Estonia. The tour started in Gdansk on the 22 of July and ended in Riga on the 9.th of August.

The crew 2009 consisted of three contemporary artists from Sweden; Liv Strand, Anette Felleson, Birgitta Silfverhielm, and a german ecologist and photographer, Albert Caspari. In the project there are also others taking part, supporting it in different ways.

Our contacts for the project this summer has been Wyspa Art Institute in Gdansk, Poland, Klaipeda Cultural Communication Center in Lithuania, a few latvian environmental organisations, NOASS floating art platform and Latvian Center for Contemporary Art in Riga, a lot of interesting artists and also other people including a culture geologist, a priest and people from universities and art academies. Additional contacts will be Center for Contemporary Art in Tallin, Estonia and Arte/gallery Titanik in Turku, Finland.

There has been information meetings in cooperation with our contacts/partners, and people were also invited to visit the boat.

Next two years the project plans to sail around the Baltic with an international crew. It will consist of a mix of contemporary artists and people with Baltic sea and/or environmental knowledge, from all the countries around the Baltic, including also Finland, Åland and Germany. The boat will act as a platform for discussions and exchange of knowledge. After the sailing experience there should be time for the participants to work for a period.

The webpage [www.approachatsea.eu](http://www.approachatsea.eu) is acting as the official information platform for the project. This webpage is filled with information along the process of the project.

The final goal 2011 is to use the experiences from the journeys for big presentations and seminars where all the participants come together. Hopefully some interesting and different views on the Baltic sea will be delivered.

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