

# FRANK KOOLEN PLAY HARD

19<sup>th</sup> Sep. – 20<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2015

Opening Friday September 18<sup>th</sup> 17-19  
Museum of Contemporary Art

Opening speeches:

Birgitte Kirkhoff Eriksen and  
Frank Koolen

Performance by Frank Koolen

Everyone is welcome



**In a time where efficiency is favoured, the Museum of Contemporary Art and artist Frank Koolen strike a blow for the necessity of unnecessary play. Play as an overall attitude. Play as a way of dealing with reality. Play as effort. Play as relaxation. Play as absurd action. Play as the most serious thing in the world. Play as a necessary but paradoxical activity to distance oneself from daily routines. Play which has no use but itself.**

Frank Koolen has divided his exhibition into three categories: Playing alone, playing with objects, and playing with other animals. Built in collaboration with citizens of Roskilde, the artwork *Karaoke Pavillion* situated in Palæhaven next to the museum represents both playing alone and playing with other animals. Through the entire exhibition period it will be available for cheerful singing from everyone who wants to participate.

The exhibition is a total installation that shows Koolen's works from recent years as well as entirely new works made in Roskilde. Koolen's art playfully moves from the tragic to the fun, the absurd to the serious, when he unravels the laws and rules of the creative process, sets up obstructions for himself, and celebrates the experiment. Even when it fails.

In collaboration with game designers, Frank Koolen has developed an urban game based on the exhibition which incorporates parts of the city as its playfield. Everyone can participate.

We publish a lavishly illustrated interdisciplinary catalogue with different researchers' approaches to play, artist contributions, tiny games (e.g. "The Singing Review"), and other playful ideas.

Hi-res images can be downloaded from [www.samtidskunst.dk](http://www.samtidskunst.dk). For further information, please contact:  
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## MEET FRANK KOOLEN

Frank Koolen talks about his exhibition. Tuesday September 15<sup>th</sup> at 15-16 at Roskilde Library, Scenen i Musikken. Free admission. No registration required. In English.

Frank Koolen in conversation with Bettina Lamm, senior lecturer in landscape architecture at Department of Geosciences and Natural Resource Management, University of Copenhagen. Saturday September 19<sup>th</sup> at 14 at the Museum of Contemporary Art. Free admission. No registration required. In English.



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