

News LETTER

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Rainbow city views

More about our project:
www.expectart.eu

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In the beginning of May, the Danish team of EXPECT_Art researchers and cultural partners – Syddansk Universitet, Aalborg Universitet and Institut for Børnekultur – hosted a visit by the Slovenian team from Science and Research Centre Koper in Aarhus, the second largest city in Denmark. This visit was centered around discussions and reflections upon decolonialisation and arts education in Denmark and Slovenia.

The day began with the visit to the art museum ARoS, where the installation 'Once Again ... (Statues Never Die) 2022' by Sir Isaac Julien was viewed. The exhibition centers around how Western museums and collectors have influenced perceptions of African art, especially in relation to how – as was quoted at the exhibition – "African art has been presented as something exotic by Western collectors and museums", where the artefacts' value lay only in their anthropological aspects, while discarding the artistic value.

The installation is set as a film work with a fictional conversation between two historical figures: the cultural theorist Alain Locke and the collector of African material culture Albert C. Barnes. In their conversation meaningful meeting points can be observed, allowing for understanding of decoloniality. At the same time, there is also a dissonance connected to how Barnes, though progressive in his appreciation of African Art, is still entangled in a colonial framework and Locke is seen "challenging the objectification to which African art has been subjected, highlighting its profound cultural and political significance" (as quoted at the exhibition). This connects very well with EXPECT_Art's exploration of (de)colonial practices in relation to art and its influence on different perceptions of economic and cultural value, recognition and status, and art as a point of stratification.





At the top floor of the museum, the team was immersed in a 360° view of the city through a rainbow-colored glass window – a popular attraction and landmark in Aarhus called ‘Your rainbow panorama’ designed by Olafur Eliasson. It is famous for its rainbow colors functioning as the lens over the city. Conversations soon shifted from topics about art spaces to considerations about the space of the city. Questions were pondered such as: What makes a home? Which parts of the city are accessible to some and not to others?

After visiting ARoS, the co-leader of the EXPECT_Art project and local citizen of Aarhus, Gro Hellesdatter Jacobsen, led a guided city tour. Together with another team member Karoline Lund Nielsen they were showcasing narratives and stories connected to the city with graffiti, hip-hop culture, building

techniques, and the use of public space. All combined led to considerations of who is present (visible) in the city and who is not.

In the afternoon, a meeting was hosted at the largest construction project by the municipality of Aarhus - a public culture house Dokk1, a hybrid space combining a large library, offices, citizen service center, a public square and much more. In this cleverly designed multi-functional and inclusive space, the shared reflections continued and new questions emerged: How can the decolonization of arts education be promoted within and across diverse political and educational contexts? After the visit, both the Danish and the Slovenian team were left with fresh perspectives on the local environment’s connection to the use of arts in education – and city planning.



Did you know?



The registration for the EXPECT_Art summer school for students, taking place between 6 and 11 July 2026 in Budapest, Hungary, is open until June 3.

Please follow the link for further information:
<https://event.sdu.dk/expectartsummerschool2026>

Did you also know...

... that the open call for EXPECT_Art final conference "Exploring and Promoting Critical Cultural Literacy: Connecting Arts and Education in Schools and Local Communities in Europe" is out? The event will take place in Landau, Germany, on 25 and 26 November 2026. Visit this website for more information about abstract submission:

<https://event.sdu.dk/expectartkonference2026/abstractupload/signup>