

A TRAIN TO SPAIN



Traveling art project
dedicated to Scandinavian volunteers
in Spanish Civil War 1936 - 1939



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www.bbaa.uma.es

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“A Train to Spain” is an international, traveling cross-media project dedicated to the memories of the Scandinavian volunteers who went to Spain eighty years ago, during the Civil War of 1936-1939.

They risked their lives to fight fascism, and many of them never came back.

Starting in August 2016, our team will travel through Europe, from Finland to Spain, organising various screenings, meetings, seminars and pop-up exhibitions on the road. We hope to create discussion not only about the fates of the bygone volunteers, but also about the current state of our continent where the fascism is again raising in many new forms.

Katariina Lillqvist
Project coordinator, film director
Finland

www.atraintospain.com



The cooperating authors and their projects are:

NORWAY

“The Volunteer”



Photo courtesy of the Schei family

Documentary film (7 minutes) about a young Norwegian journalist Martin Schei, who died in Spain in 1937 at the age of 19.

Based on the book “Pasaremos! To nordmenn i spansk borgarkrig” (Jon Olav Myklebust and Ottar Årdal, Oslo 1982) and subsequent research.

Kieran Kolle and Turid Rogne, directors
Elisabeth Kleppe, producer

“Alcoi”

The short documentary films tell the story of the Swedish-Norwegian hospital through a wide selection of photographs from 1937, documenting Scandinavian solidarity. Interviews with relatives of the health workers and new footage from Alcoi supplement the archive photos.



The single episodes cover the following themes :

- those who left Scandinavia and went to Spain
- the work at the hospital
- the importance of the solidarity health workers
- the leaving and travel back home
- the life of the volunteers after Alcoi

The point of departure for the films are these books:

“A Hospital for Spain! Scandinavian Solidarity in a Time of Civil War”
(Jon Olav Myklebust and Àngel Beneito, Alcoi 2009.)

“Escandinavos en Alcoi. Solidaridad Internacional en Tiempo de Guerra”
(Àngel Beneito and Jon Olav Myklebust, Alcoi 2011.)

Sebastian Holsen, director

Gunnar Strøm, producer

Special thanks to professors Jon Olav Myklebust & Gunnar Strøm and art director Thomas Lewé at Volda University College, Spanish historian Àngel Beneito and translator Gemma Ballester.

SWEDEN

“Love & Solidarity!”



Experimental animation, based on the protests against Franco in Stockholm, 1975.
Nils Claesson, film director

“La Violencia De Las Horas”



Experimental document by Dror Feiler - composer, artist and political activist

Sounds, images and memories of Jews who served in The International Brigade in the Spanish Civil War.

Thousands of Jews from 53 countries went to fight and die opposing Franco, firing the first shots against fascism. Some went openly as Jews, others took aliases; some fought in the battalions of their country of birth, others with other national groups; some went via a third nation, others went direct to Spain; some were refugees from anti-Semitism or political oppression already, others went freely from the democracies. In addition, thousands more Jews worldwide were active in solidarity campaigns, fund raising and refugee rescue, on behalf of the Republican Democrats. This project is dedicated to them.

“From Arvika to Alcoi”

Interactive documentary based on the story of nurse Bertha Olofsson – the grant-aunt of the author – who went to Spain to fight fascism in 1937.



Tinna Joné, documentarist

FINLAND

“Radio Dolores”



Puppet animation (18 minutes) based on the stories from the Aaltonen shoe factory of Tampere, Finland, during the Thirties when ordinary workers started to support the Republican Spain.

Also a radio feature under the same title, in English and in Spanish, and an installation based on the set decorations, characters and sketches of the animation.

Katariina Lillqvist, director & her Czech-Spanish-Finnish-Polish team

DENMARK

“Letters From the Spanish Civil War”



A book and an installation about the Nielsen Brothers.

Authors Albert Scervig, Charlie Krautwald, Daniel Madsen and Nadia Zarling

The three Nielsen brothers, Harald, Kai and Aage, were the very first Danish volunteers in the Spanish civil war who in August 1936 together with a friend bicycled from Copenhagen to Paris to join the fight against the fascists. Through their preserved letter correspondence and original photographs collected in the book, *Brødrene Nielsen – Breve fra Den Spanske Borgerkrig*, we follow the brothers' journey through 1930's Europe marked by the rise of fascism and antifascism and a Spain ravaged by civil war. The last of the brothers left Spain shortly before the final collapse of the Popular Front in 1939. During World War 2, Harald, Kai and Aage Nielsen all participated in the communist resistance movement against the German occupation and the Danish collaboration policy as founders of the sabotage organisation BOPA. A struggle for which Aage paid the ultimate price at the hands of the Gestapo. The authors are editors behind the small independent publishing cooperative Nemo. They work with the publishing of literature in art, culture, history and politics.

Their contribution for *A Train To Spain* is an audiovisual montage of sound interviews with the Nielsen brothers and selection of their own photographs from the Spanish civil war.

In cooperation with the Astrid Noack Atelier, Copenhagen

CONTACTS

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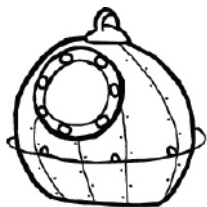
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TIMETABLE

Events in Scandinavia in 2016:

For possible timetable changes, please check our website www.atraintospain.com

FINLAND

The main Finnish event, the premiere of the “Radio Dolores” multimedia project and installation, was inaugurated under the Tampere Film Festival in March 2016. The premiere of the same-named animation will take place in Tampere in August 12, 2016. The venue is the Labour Museum Werstas, Väinö Linnan aukio 8, Tampere, and the exhibition there will be open until 14. 8. 2016 daily except Mondays, from 11-18. From 16. 8. the installation moves into the Rööperin Taidesalonki-gallery in Helsinki, and stays there until the end of the month.

www.werstas.fi

www.rooperintaidesalonki.com

SWEDEN

The opening ceremony of the first common exhibition will take place in Tegen2 gallery in Stockholm in 26. 8. 2016. From that on, a parallel exhibition will stay in the gallery until the end of September 2016, while the traveling part of the project will start its journey towards the South on the 27. 8. 2016.

www.tegen2.se

NORWAY

In Norway, we will have several events:

- a workshop by the island of Utöya in late August
- the premier of the film “The Volunteer” in Førde, 1. 9. 2016, in collaboration with the Labour Unions
- exhibition and screenings in Volda, together with VUC, 23.-27. 9. 2016 as a part of the yearly Forskningsdagene (The research days), under the theme “Borders”

www.hivolda.no/english

www.forskningsdagene.no

DENMARK

In Denmark, we will present the project in the Astrid Noack Atelier on 15. 9. – 17. 9. 2016.

www.astrid-noack.dk

Events in Spain in 2016 :

The opening ceremony of first Spanish event will take place in 29. 9. 2016 in the gallery of the Málaga University, Faculty of Fine Arts, where the exhibiton will stay until 12. 10. 2016.

www.uma.es

A special event will take place in Albacete on the 14.10. 2016, where the 80th anniversary of the arrival of the International Brigades will be held, organised by the CEDOBI – institute.

www.brigadasinternacionales.uclm.es

Then we will go on, to the city of Alcoi, where we will have the exhibition and film screenings in the historical building of the Hospital of Alcoi starting from the 24. 10. 2016.

Ajuntament d'Alcoi **www.alcoi.org**

Universitat Politècnica de València - Campus d'Alcoi **www.epsa.uvp.es**

After the tour, we will publish a book, a webdocumentary and several articles about our project.

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The Finnish Film Foundation



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Ajuntament d'Alcoi

Volda University College, Norway

Zigedaire Animations, Sweden

Werstas Labour Museum, Finland

Tegen2 Gallery, Stockholm

Astrid Noack Atelier, Denmark

Faculty of Fine Arts, Málaga University, Spain, with professor Salvador Haro

City of Alcoi, Spain, with translator Gemma Ballester and historian Angel Beneito Lloris

Film and Media Institution at Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Arts, Sweden

The Friends of Spanish Volunteers, Sweden

Professor Jon Olav Myklebust, Norway

Gunilla Sköld Feiler, gallerist, artist, Sweden

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María Jiménez Romero, translator, Spain

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Hannu Karisto, producer, YLE, Finland