

Marit Benthe Norheim
My Ship is Loaded with Life
January 18th – March 3rd 2024

Marit Benthe Norheim casts her monumental sculptures in concrete and love. With a strong foundation in community, inclusion and care, her projects forge new paths, connect people, and encourage overcoming differences.

The Norwegian Sculptors Society is proud to present a large retrospective exhibition featuring Norheim's works, from the very first pieces from her years at the art academy, to the latest sculptures from her studio in Denmark. *My Ship is Loaded with Life* is the most extensive presentation of Norheim's work in Norway to date, filling the entire villa and sculpture park with powerful concrete figures.

The creative power, fertility, desire and life experience of women have been central elements in Norheim's artistic journey from the beginning. In an often symbolic visual language, she portrays female figures and human experiences, whether it involves self-discovery, caring for a child, protecting oneself and others, or finding closeness with another person. Often, the sculptures are so large that the audience can walk inside them, board them, or sit on their laps.

In Marit Benthe Norheim's universe, everything is possible. Her art stops traffic, sails across borders, breaks rules, and provokes – but it can also embrace, sing, dance, give birth, and love. In Norheim's work, we, as participants, are invited to think big. Through projects like *Rolling Angels*, *Campingwomen*, and *Life-Boats*, Norheim reminds us that together we can achieve almost anything.

MARIT BENTHE NORHEIM (b. 1960) is a Norwegian artist who has been residing in Denmark since 1996. She is responsible for numerous public commissions in Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Greenland, Iceland, and the United Kingdom. After a year apprenticing with Gunnar Torvund, she was educated at the Bergen Academy of Art and Design, Bergen (1980–1984, one year traveling in Europe), and the Royal Academy of Arts, London (1984–1987). She is represented in several public collections, including the National Museum of Norway and the Ny Carlsberg Foundation in Denmark.

The exhibition is supported by Sparebankstiftelsen DNB and The Arts Council Norway.