

Mar Fjell  
This is Not a Love Song  
10.–29.11.2024

Death work is the labor of preparing, tending, and bearing witness to the boundaries of life and death. Even in Western thinking these boundaries are getting blurry. An End is a stretched, extended, ongoing act.

Mourning and death work is work done in private, in public, alone, in communities, in rituals and in practical, mundane chores, in obscurity. It's both everyday and sudden.

The work in cemeteries is part of artist Mar Fjell's family history. In the practice of digging graves, of knowing the conditions of soil, spreading ashes, tending the compost and plants.

*In The Life of Plants: A Metaphysics of Mixture*, philosopher Emanuele Coccia describes plants as "ecologically and structurally double"—with visible bodies above ground and roots acting as a hidden, mirrored counterpart. According to Coccia, to feel what it is like to have roots would be "to imagine that for every movement of our body, there is another that goes the opposite way"—a perfectly mirrored movement, a corresponding body part.

Now imagine living on a dying planet. There is no single plane, no simple above and below—only an endless mixture of rearrangement.

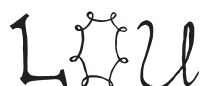
The sculptures in the exhibition occupy a space in the precarious state of wholeness and disintegration. Limbs and tools and fragments. Fingers and shoulders and assholes. Fjell uses humble materials that carry marks of wear, age, and past use. Scrap wood, leftover parts, and rough finishes reject perfection. These materials, often seen as disposable, are given new life in Fjell's work. They're unwilling to cross that boundary. A living dead, perhaps.

In the sound installation of the exhibition, slowness becomes a medium—a painfully slow tempo stretches the singer's voice and presence to the point of seeming dissolution. The altered audio and muffled screams from a video work fall almost silent.

In midst of the grief and mourning, the exhibition offers the dandelions—symbolic of resilience—growing luminous green in the gray November air. Life pushes through unlikely crevices, portals, holes that bring pleasure.

For an End, a borrowed dedication from Kai Cheng Thom's "I Hope We Choose Love: A Trans Girls Notes From the End of The World":

*To all the queers who broke my heart  
And to all the queers who mended it*



we–fri 14–18  
sat–sun 12–16

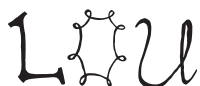
Vaasankatu 15  
00500 Helsinki

lou.gallery

**Mar Fjell** is an interdisciplinary artist based in Stockholm and Berlin. Their practice is positioned within performance and socially engaged art, and includes various media such as sound, text, video, performance and objects. Many of their works happen through collective processes or collaborations. Over the last years Mar has been engaged in projects related to transition work based on the element of water and soil as well as establishing platforms for feminist queer engagements, together with the artist and researcher Malin Arnell.

**The artist would like to thank MYCKET, Mikael Persson and Mira Dolk Flodin. The text is written by curator Remi Vesala.**

**The exhibition is made possible with the support of the Swedish Arts Grants Committee, Kulturfonden för Sverige och Finland and Nordic Culture Point. Lou is supported by Kone Foundation.**



we-fri 14-18  
sat-sun 12-16

Vaasankatu 15  
00500 Helsinki

[lou.gallery](http://lou.gallery)