

2014 and ongoing **Talking out of my ass**  
[www.talkingoutofmyass.com](http://www.talkingoutofmyass.com)

*Since the beginning of 2014, I have taken a metaphor of action literally, and put my ass on the line in an advicecolumn, and a series of quizzes and talkshows.*

## 2 Quizzes with my ass:

### The Ass in the School

A Quiz about the stupidity we live by  
Little Wolf, Wisconsin August 2016



In this classic etching of Pieter Breughel the Elder, I put my ass on the line in a quiz about of stupidity; its history, ideologies, potentials and pitfalls.

When talking about stupidity the ass is an important bodypart, because if you want to say about someone that they are being stupid you can say that they are just talking out of their ass, or that they are making an ass of themself.

Stupidity is also a term that seems to have great importance in current affairs, but it also seems to be a slippery concept, and apparently anyone can call each other stupid according to their own definitions without acknowledging how their notions of stupidity is built upon great stupidities of the past.

### My Ass in Ringsted

Challenging locals to a quiz about their area  
Ringsted Galleriet, Ringsted municipality, June 2016



In this quiz, therefore, I put my ass on the line let it challenging locals, to a quiz about their particular locality. A locality which I have only read about while sitting on my ass, in a comfortable chair in the comfortable city Copenhagen .

The quiz takes it point of departure in this particular locality, but as we quiz our way through this place, our thought may wander away from our own asses and touch upon how this place, this quiz, and this position of all our asses can relate to bigger pictures of place, belonging, migration, bodily investment, agency, seriousness, knowledge and a lot of other related topics.

## 2 Talkshows with my ass:



### January 2016 - **LMAO Laughing my ass off**

A talkshow paneldebate that was part of the seminar "It's a joke" at 13festivalen, at Konstepidimin, Gothenburg.

*From the programme: "as a tribute to all these performance artists that keep making complete asses of themselves, Ulla Hvejsel will put her ass on the line and let it host a panel discussion with specially invited guests. Together, they will look into jokes about performanceartists - and try to figure out and explain what the point is, and perhaps also close in on some points about performance art.*

*It is common knowledge however, that a joke is just not funny anymore once you explain why it is funny, and that may also be the case for performance art. However, in the rubble of the broken joke, a new joke may appear - and that joke might just be the one that can make us laugh in new and unexpected ways at things we never realized were ridiculous before.*



### March 2014 - **Making an ass of myself**

A performance for stupid children and adults.

"Everyone knows that each new generation is stupider than the last one, and in this performance my ass and I investigated this together with around 70 stupid children and their accompanying adults. i

My ass explained that "If you want to call somebody stupid you might call them an ass or an asshole, or say that they are just talking out of their ass, and the ass must therefore have a special insight in the theme of stupidity" That is also why my ass invited all these stupid children and adults to discuss their own stupidity with my ass.

The discussion was undertaken with the backdrop of an etching by Pieter Breugel the Elder called "The Ass in the school".

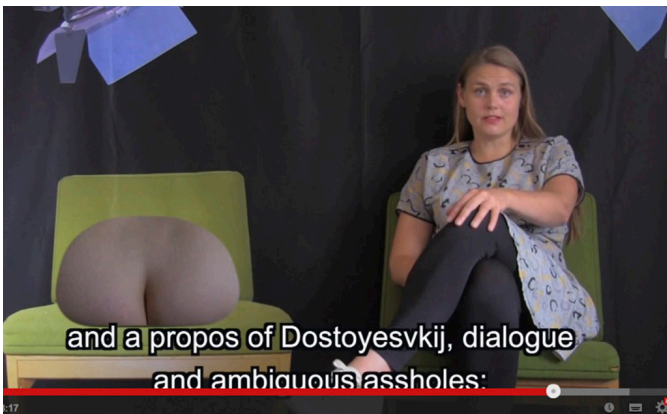


2014 and onwards:

## Ask my ass anything: online advice column

The ass can be both the essence of silly and the bodypart you put on the line to be taken seriously all at the same time, It is a complicated bodypart that seems to be able to epitomize a large variety of ambiguous concepts and still stay an ass all the same.

For that reason it may be able to give new complicated answers to old complicated questions, and that is why anyone should write to my ass and ask it any of those troublesome questions that they may not have find an answer to through conventional methods.

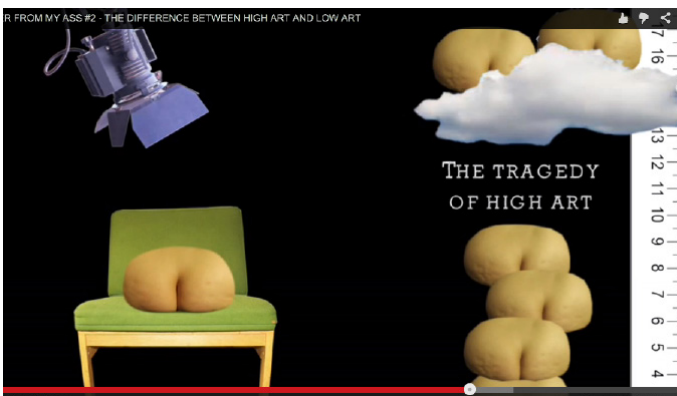


### Introduction to my ass:

An introduction and an interview with my ass - where we discuss Dostoyevskij, polyphony and ambiguous assholes - and explain why you can ask my ass anything.

### The difference between high art and low art:

An answer in French and english to a question about the difference between high art and low art, asked by Timothy Stock. Here the ass talks about ivory towers, overview and the assholes on the ground, and reads an excerpt of the diary of the french poet Alfred de Vigny, from 1830.



### Are you lacking recognition, how is your self-esteem, are you all well?

An answer to a question from Anders. Here the ass talks about advantages and disadvantages of being true to ones ass - and about sitting in better chairs than a lot of other assholes.

### What will I regret the most, having children or not having children:

An answer to "the anxious" about children, regrets and about the problems of having to make a choice based on insufficient information.



# 2009-13: **The white bear**

more on [www.thewhitebear.info](http://www.thewhitebear.info)

*”Try and set yourself the task not to think of a white bear, and you will see that, the cursed thing comes to mind every minute.”* Fyodor Dostoyevskij *”Winter Notes on Summer Impressions”* 1863

From 2009-2013 however, I actually managed to get this beast of my mind on several occasions. When it was out, it studied and presented the history and ideas of inner beasts, depths of the mind and life on the surface of things.

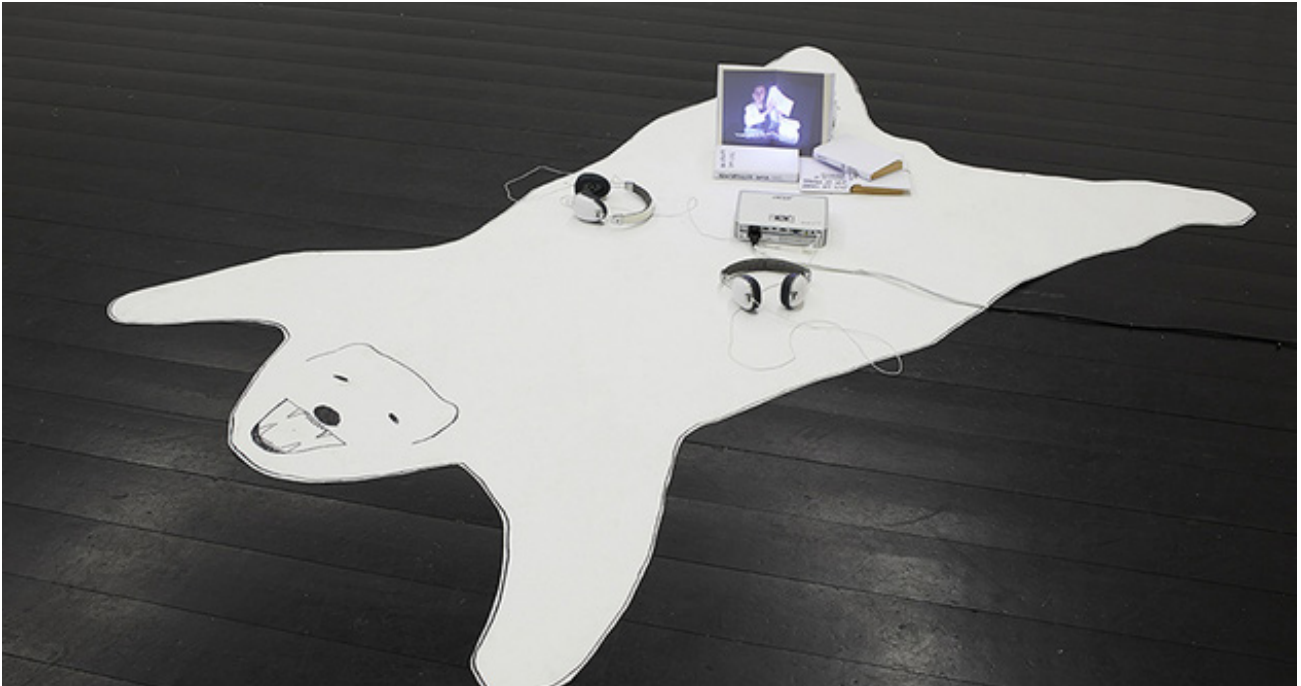


## 2013 - **“Roar, Orao, Aror ”**

Poster dealing with the question of which roar that is the truest roar.



## 2013: **Dirty Truths, Inner Roars** and **New Humane Calculations**



A video -installation where the white bear checks up on contemporary discourses of cleaning in order to find new truths in the dust that is swept under the rug.

The dust under the rug is, for some reason, considered more true than the polished surface - but in this video, the white bear talks about another truth about dust; the truth that that the dust swept off one's own doorstep, always seems to land on someone else's.

Through some complicated calculations, and some new facts about dust that was released from NASA in 2010, the bear tries to make new humane calculations, that takes this inevitable dust of life into account.



## 2012: Human rights, White bears and correct legal spelling of Dostoyevskij”.



A balancing act and performative talk about how inner bears are also a central issue when dealing with law and order and especially with the concept of equality before the law.

**While literally balancing** on a substantial amount of research, (a pile of books) into the matter the bear gets to the bottom of its subject, book by book. While it is reading its way through its high podium of books with titles such as "Dostoevski, Dostoyevskij Dostoesvki", "We will kill anyway – because its in our culture", "roaring mistakes" etc, it takes the audience through a kaleidoscopic bear-view of an unequal world where everyone roars their own roar and spells Dostoevsky in each their own way.

**With the current melting away in the arctic** the whole "Getting to the bottom" of things has entered into a new era of disconcerting reality – and while the bear reads through the books it scatters them across the ground so they end up looking like iceflakes. Iceflakes that have brought brown bears and white bears together in recent years, where climate changes have brought about an increase in migration of bears, and thus in crossbreeding between these two species.

**And this takes us right into legal grey area** because allthwhile there are very fixed rules about who can and cannot shoot both white and brown bears, these hybrid species seem to be beyond the law – and have apparently been shot without consequence on several occasions. This, and many more legal examples from the world of bearhunting serves as an allegory for the discussion of all the unsurmountable differences between people, that makes human rights and equality before the law so complicated.

# 2011-12: A white bear on the free market

Travel diary, installation and a journey to the free market.



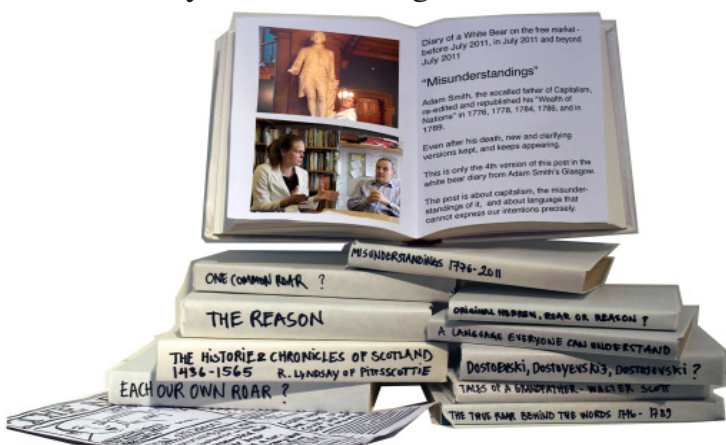
**In the summer 2011, the white bear went to Glasgow Scotland to investigate the crisis-stricken free market, that was invented here in 1776. Here it met with local thinkers, artists, hairdressers, oranje-men and -women, touristguides etc. and filmed it all for a videodiary. This diary was later presented at an exhibition space in a run-down, the halfempty shopping arcade Toves galleri, In Copenhagen.**

Background:

In 1776, the Scottish moralphilosopher Adam Smith wrote, in his famous liberalist text-book with the colloquial name: "An Enquiry Into the Nature and the Causes of the Wealth of Nations" that: *"it isn't from the benevolence of the butcher the brewer or the baker, that we expect our dinner, but from their regard to their own selfinterest. We address ourselves not to their humanity but to their self-love and never talk to them of our own necessities but of their advantages."*

Thus, when it isn't humanity that is supposed to distribute the dinners to all of Scotland, it may very well be, that it is the inner beast in us all that ill do it. That is off cours interesting to a white bear. This inhumanity; this white bear, will, according to Adam Smith, unitnteninally create prosperity for all of Scotland whenever it trades and barthers for it's own gain.

One could say that Smith's market-model is an honourable attempt at solving the famed problems with the selfloving western inner bear, that Dostoyevskij believed stood in the way of freedom liberty and brotherhhod. If this selfinterested bear can actally work for society while working for itself, it does seems that the problem is solved really.



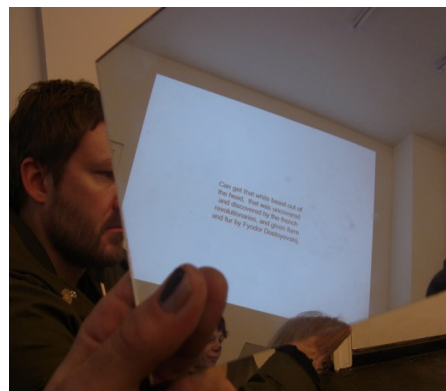


# 2011-12 **Beauty** without and within

A performance, a toilette-installation and a beauty-guide about synchronizing the beautiful surface with the inner roars. This makeup-guide has been shown as a flipped-projection on the wall across from the mirror, in the "powder-room" of the art-hall, and as a performative mirrored powerpoint lecture:

While reading aloud a written text, that is flipped in such a way, that it is only readable, while looking at yourself in the mirror, I take the audience through the secrets of inner and outer beauty - in 5 easy steps. Steps that, if followed conscientiously, will, of course, turn you into a beautiful white bear from the inside, the an actual "beauty from within!"

Apart from giving out these practical beauty-tips, the guide also informs on the history of inner and outer beauty. Among other things, you can read about Francis Galton, the cousin of Charles Darwin, who, by comparing the faces of vegetarians and criminals, sought to figure out if the beauty on the outside could tell us anything about the character of that beautiful person.





# 2011: Internalized Geographies

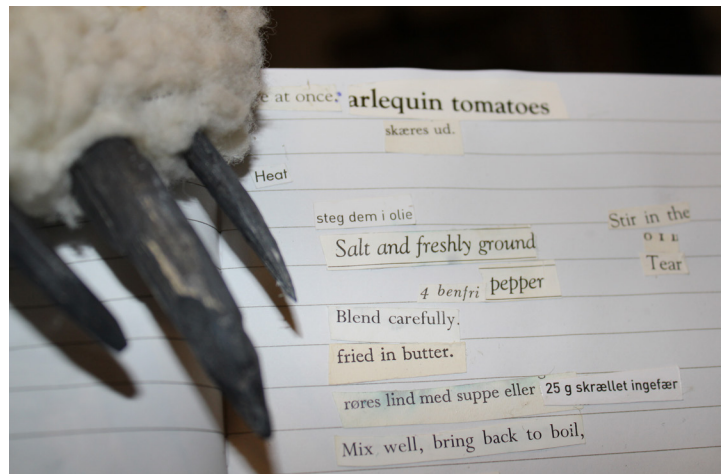
Tableau vivante with white bear



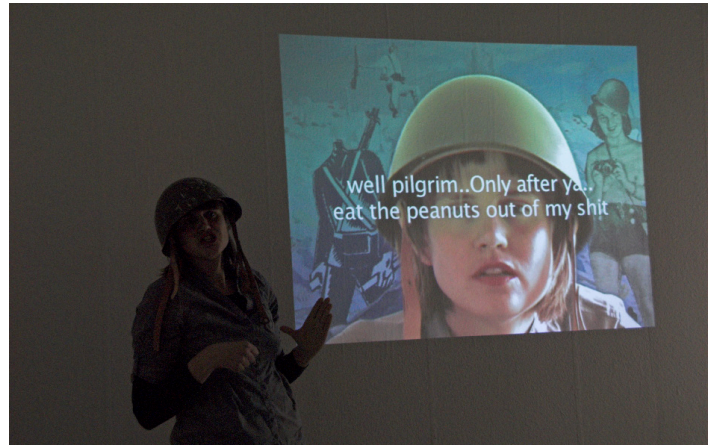
Dostoyevskij introduced the inner white bear in order to explain how we are all born with an russian, western (or danish, or vesterbro'eian) inner bear on our minds; An inner beast that has already taken some of the decisions for us, as to what kind of people we are going to be.

For this show, however, the bear came out of the head to rewrite the history of that internalized geography. In all of the exhibition period a white bear thus sat in a blank library, using its sharp claws to dissect regional and national cookbooks in order to assemble their words into new universal truths for all bears and humans.

Over the course of the exhibition period a new hopeful library, with new hopeful titles and dishes for both mind and body emerged, and by the end of the show the inner bear stepped out of its library and invited everybody on the outside for cut-up-dinner made according to the recipes that were altered to make this new library.



## 2007-10: Cabaret of War 1-3



### Three performances: A Praise of Folly, proactive stupidity and The End

*Since I felt, that I absolutely had to do something, and times were hardly suitable for any serious practise, I decided to amuse myself, with the praise of Folly.*

Erasmus of Rotterdam in the dedication of his book, "The Praise of Folly" to his friend Thomas More", 1511

*Cabaret of War was a series of presentations of my collection of Jokes from Warfilms; films and jokes that are both good and bad, heroic and disillusioned, good oldfashioned, contemporary and complicated. Up until now, the collection has been presented in three different performative versions, all titled Cabaret of War.*

**Cabaret of war - A Praise of Folly** - Was an allnight cabaret show, with silly music, cheap drinks, howling mic's and a bad taste in your mouth that made you want to clear your throat with a strong drink. It was a dinnershow with singing actresses and dinner - a night of laughing hysterically and insistently at something that wasn't really funny at all.

**Cabaret of War -Proactive Stupidity** - Was a onewoman show, with a selection of jokes about the warfilm-  
notion of a difference between taking action and thinking too much. It was a show about education and brutality, finer things and dynamic things. In this show I played all the parts myself, together with a projection of me, acting in the light of history, on a background of representatons of war from media and arthistory.

#### **Cabaret of War -The End**

While Shrek 4 the final chapter was released, and all the world was consumed in the question of whether or not the world will come to an end, I presented a number of jokes about the end, asking the question if there is a real chance of moving on in this world. This is also, so far, the last version of these presentations of jokes from warfilms

