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# Observatory Case update

**Fargfabriken, Stockholm, Sweden**

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# Fargfabriken

Since its foundation in 1995, Fargfabriken has been a platform and exhibition venue for cultural expression focusing on architecture, urban planning and art. The industrial site was built in 1889 in Lövholmen, Stockholm, to accommodate reaping machines. Later, it became a paint factory, from which it borrowed its name, until the cessation of production in the 1970s. Fargfabriken is run by the Swedish Association of Architects SAR and Lindéngruppen AB. Fargfabriken's site includes different exhibition venues, a café, and a shop selling artworks.

<https://fargfabriken.se/en/>

As with many organizations, COVID-19 was not an easy period for Fargfabriken. Many projects and events had to be postponed or even cancelled. For instance, they had to cancel the spring market, which takes place in March every year and is one of Stockholm's largest design and crafts markets, with over 100 artisans. Fargfabriken operated the space according to health guidelines and regulations to help reduce the spread of the Coronavirus, which meant they needed to decrease the number of visitors and cancel exhibition openings. However, Fargfabriken were still very lucky that they could host many exhibitions during these challenging times, which was possible due to national regulations.

Fargfabriken collaborated with many artists to develop diverse art exhibitions such as Marvels & Catastrophes, which is part of the **LISTEN** project in collaboration with Virserum Art Hall, Skellefteå Art Hall, and the Swedish Postal Code Foundation. For a short time, artists took over the Fargfabriken project room to explore new ideas, various artistic practices, patterns, and concepts that can extend inspiration for fresh perspectives, approaches, and strategies on how to deal with disasters like the pandemic. Fargfabriken hosted guided tours during Stockholm Art Week with a restriction of a maximum of 10 participants. Additionally, Fargfabriken hosted an exhibition called ISOLATION | COMMUNICATION about the practical and psychological issues of isolation that are born from the widespread pandemic. The exhibition gathered over 500 art entries in the open call phase and 110 ended up being displayed in Fargfabriken.