



### Raw&Good

Our teaching is always based on our current exhibitions and artists. Because the museum currently has an exhibition of works by Danish artist Henry Heerup (1907-93), renowned for his innovative use of discarded materials to create junk sculptures and the transformation of the resulting motifs into a graphic expression, this guides our choice of theme of repurposing waste to create art.

At Kærby School, two teachers, Gudrun and Mette have previously worked at the museum as part of the school service and we have experience of collaborating with them. We also contact Råt&Godt, a company that repurposes and upcycles materials, and which is a short walk from the school and museum. Råt&Godt regularly repurpose materials from our exhibition activities and their staff have previously produced furniture for our creative workshop. Råt&Godt also provides a launching pad in the form of apprenticeships in their woodworking, bike repair and metalwork workshops for people needing help to enter the job market, so there is also a social element connected to the collaboration.

### Getting to know materials

Our project commences in January and it is evident from the start that the weather is going to be a challenge. A heavy snowstorm greets us on the morning of the first workshop, but the trains are running, and the kids in 5.a are all game for a traipse through the snow to Råt&Godt. They arrive with fresh faces and good cheer and the staff are waiting for us to show us around the premises of Råt&Godt. The children are given paper and a stick of graphite to create rubbings of textures they find among the recycled materials. These are pieced together to form dynamic collages as the first artwork they produce for the project. On day two, we repeat this process with the parallel class, 5.b.

### Trash to treasure

For the final sculptural component, we meet up at Råt&Godt and the kids choose whether they want to work alone or in groups to create a trash sculpture. At Råt&Godt, the staff are on standby to help with drills, screws and anything else the children are unable to manage themselves. The resulting works are very diverse and each individual/group introduces and explains their thoughts and considerations of the process and story behind the resulting works.



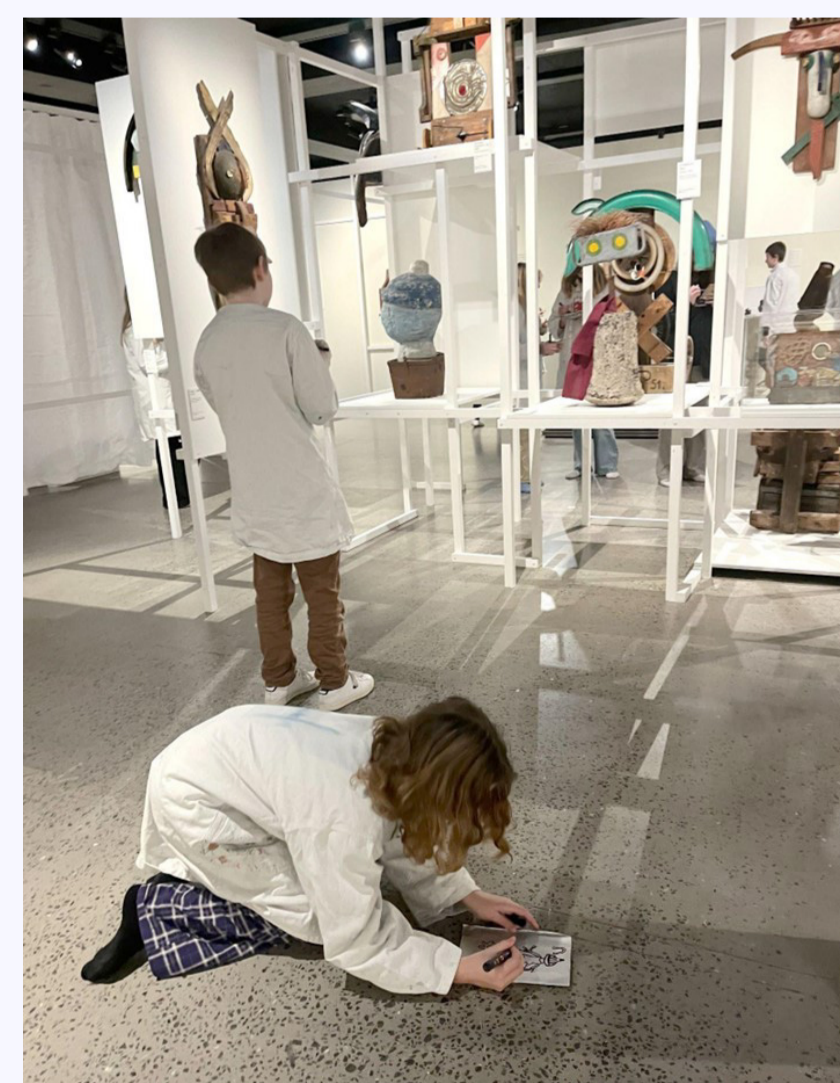
### STORIES OF INVOLVEMENT – EXAMPLES FROM PRACTICE

#### SHIT WORKS!

**Location:** Kunsten Museum of Modern Art, Råt&Godt and Kærbykolen in Aalborg, Denmark

**Time:** January-February 2024

**People involved:** Artists Inge Tranter and Olivia Kamradt, teachers and mediators, Tilde Fogh Vindelev from Kunsten Museum of Modern Art, Christian Helwig, Katrine Dalsgaard and staff from Råt&Godt, teachers Gudrun Stefansson, Mette Lykkegaard and their 43 fifth grade pupils from Kærbykolen in Aalborg.



### Past, present and future

We plan three visits by two fifth grade classes - six visits in total, culminating in an exhibition opening. The theme will be repurposing discarded materials to produce art with a focus on the works of Henry Heerup, who belonged to a generation of artists where the climate was not as much in focus as it is today. However, Heerup worked with a visionary mindset that we would today consider sustainable. Fascinated by the things he found thrown away on the street, he loaded them onto his bicycle and created lyrical figures he called trash sculptures. These discarded objects were given new life and value and entered into a dialogue with one another that still has relevance and resonance for us today. By transforming the physical objects that are destined for the trash heap into valuable objects with memories and resonance, the project should create links between the past through Heerup and his visionary approach to his art, the present that the children are living in and their future through the reanimated objects.



### Art dialogue

The next week we meet up at the museum where we will be experiencing the exhibition with works by Heerup. We use the method called Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) to create a dialogue around the works. Here, it is mostly the pupils who do the talking and there are no wrong answers. We focus on Heerup's trash sculptures and his linocut works as today is the printing component of the project. They are given a piece of paper to select motifs from the exhibition to use on their prints. In the workshop, they transfer these images to a Tetrapak milk carton, which they engrave with sharp instruments. These are then printed into stunning images. On the next day, the same process is repeated with 5.b.



### Exhibition time!

On the final Saturday of the project, we open a stunning exhibition of all the works in the beautifully evocative premises of Råt&Godt's gallery, which is a former railway building. The children proudly show their astonished families the resulting works and the exhibition is a great success and is allowed to stand for another week in the gallery. Visitors are invited to suggest a title for the project, hence the title "Shit Works".

### Connections

We initially contacted a different set of potential collaborators without much success. We wasted valuable time waiting for responses from parties who clearly were uninterested or did not have the resources for a collaboration. By changing our focus, the process was lifted by a dynamic and productive collaboration. All the parties were engaged because there were key players who pulled some of the load. Kærbykolen also treated the artworks as precious and made space for them at the school, where they are now proudly displayed. Råt&Godt were keen to try something new in their own framework too, and the sense of pride and accomplishment were shared between all parties. The pride of the children was very evident as they showed their family their works around the show. Mette and Gudrun have now seen the potential of Råt&Godt's as a teaching resource and have indicated that they intend to use them in future projects.