



RØRPOST

Art - energy collaboration project
ESBJERG - HOUSTON





Sylvester Turner is Houston's 62nd mayor and the second African-American to hold the position. A product of the Acres Homes Community in northwest Houston, he graduated from the University of Houston and Harvard Law School before joining the law firm of Fulbright & Jaworski and later founding Barnes and Turner law firm. He served in the Texas House of Representatives for 27 years before his election as mayor in 2015.

FOREWORD.

Houston City Hall is pleased to host this international exhibition of artists from Denmark and Houston. The Rørpost Collaboration Project brings together international artists to spur the flow of creative energy, the development of friendships, and the celebration of the freedom of expression. This is a perfect match for Houston, the most ethnically-diverse major metropolitan area in the United States. We are tolerant and accepting of that which is different, caring more about what you have to offer than where you came from or who your parents are. Immigrants from around the world choose Houston as their U.S. destination and they bring with them the arts and cultural traditions of their homelands. When you look at what gives this great city its soul, what makes us who we are and what reflects our spirit; it is the arts and culture. Only here can you ride a horse on a Saturday for the rodeo, go to a professional sporting event in the afternoon, dine on any type of ethnic food of your choosing in the evening, listen to 100 different languages and also experience offerings of 35,000 working artists. Houston is today what the rest of the country will be tomorrow. We are a melting pot of the riches of the world has to offer!



Johnny Søtrup has been mayor of Esbjerg since 1994, when he was elected to the city council. He is among the three longest-serving mayors in Denmark. He came from a position as principal at VUC Vest, an adult education centre. In 2007 Johnny Søtrup was in charge of merging three municipalities, making Esbjerg the fifth largest municipality in Denmark. As mayor, he has worked for and supported the further growth and development of Esbjerg as the EnergyMetropolis of Denmark.

FOREWORD.

Once Esbjerg was Denmark's largest fishing port with a fleet of over 700 boats. Today the fleet has been replaced by massive wind turbines and huge oil rigs. Esbjerg has become the capital of Denmark's offshore adventure in the North Sea since the 1970's. What began with oil and gas has now expanded into offshore wind energy and renewable energy. From fish to energy, the history of Esbjerg is an amazing story. Our local artists also tell this story, and we look forward to seeing how local artwork will now incorporate parts of Houston. Esbjerg is a proud member of the World Energy Cities Partnership and so is Houston. It is the link between our two cities, which have inspired this art collaboration. The Rørpost Collaboration Project adds a new dimension to our international relations, these have mostly been of a professional nature but now artists forge an interesting cultural and artistic relation, which we look forward to seeing at the two exhibitions in Esbjerg. Hopefully, the cultural exchange will prove to be a successful venture, which may inspire even further collaboration.



The Rørpost Collaboration Project.

Mission Statement:

Our purpose is to bring international artists together using collaborative projects as a pipeline for the flow of creative energy, the development of friendships, and the celebration of the freedom of expression.

We paired 21 Danish artists with 21 Houston artists. Each artist started a work on paper. The works were sent across the Atlantic to be finished by another artist. Each artist then created a new work in response to the experience of the collaboration.

There will be four exhibitions, two in Esbjerg and two in Houston. The exhibits will each consist of 42 collaborative pieces and 42 collaboration responses. The project is documented in this catalog.



Nicola Parente.

Inspired by changes in metropolitan communities, my paintings and photography define the intersection of daily urban life. I am intrigued by the interplay of the fluid and static elements of the urban matrix, as is referenced in the architectonic images, reflections and rhythms of my work.

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STATEMENT:

We live in a fast moving world. We are unable to capture the changes around us. We feel trapped in a fast moving highway of transformation. I sit. I breathe. I inhale the thoughts, the ideas, the movements that are overwhelming, intense, rigid yet fluid, beautiful yet disturbing, moving and captivating. I digest the moment, this particular moment. I allow myself to bask in it. My work struggles to define the intersection that is present in daily urban life. I am intrigued by the interplay between the fluid and the static elements present in today's urban tapestry. My work investigates untangling the chaos, the brilliance of technology, human development, nature's vibrancy and ultimate demise. I document it in the best way I know how, art, my only voice.

