

MATER

Nordenfjeldske
Kunstindustrimuseum
presents the 4th edition of the
Hannah Ryggen Triennale



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Hannah
Ryggen
Triennale

The Hannah Ryggen Triennale (HRT) is an exhibition cycle held in diverse venues in and around Trondheim, Norway, every third year. The triennial's aim is to honour the artist Hannah Ryggen (1894–1970), who created her works in rural Ørlandet and in Trondheim. In her own lifetime Ryggen gained international recognition for her political art, and her tapestries are still exhibited throughout the world. Each edition of HRT presents a selection of her works as well as contemporary crafts and visual arts that relates to certain aspects of her artistic practice. In this way, HRT brings part of the international art scene to the place where Ryggen's works were created and into dialogue with them – for the enrichment of the local public and our visiting guests alike.



Hannah Ryggen, self-portrait, 1970. Tapestry in wool and linen, 51,5 × 40 cm.



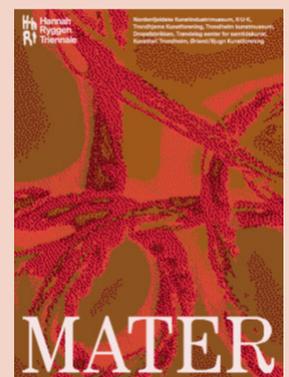
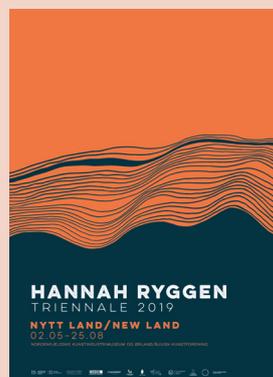
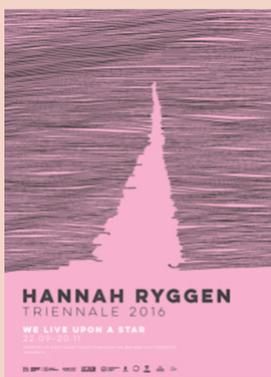
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HRT is organised by Nordenfjeldske Kunstindustrimuseum National Museum of Decorative Arts and Design which owns the largest collection of Hannah Ryggen's tapestries. The triennial's editions are developed in collaboration with other institutions and organisers from the local art scene who link themselves to the programme with thematically related exhibitions and events. We are delighted over the prospect of working with the Trondheim art scene as we organise the 4th edition of the Hannah Ryggen Triennale, under the title MATER.



MATER is the theme for the Hannah Ryggen Triennale 2025 (HRT25). Mater means mother in Latin, and as such, alludes to something creative and life-giving. In addition to a biological origin or a female caregiver, mater can indicate a source or background in an institutional sense – a school, tradition or culture that provides the basis for further development. Inasmuch as mater is the root of words such as matter, material and materiality, it shows how the material world – our physical surroundings – have been perceived as absolutely fundamental. This in turn is reflected in a concept such as ‘mother nature’. The connection between motherliness and materiality is also reflected in how ‘matter’ as a noun refers to a substance, while the verb ‘to matter’ refers to being significant for something or someone. MATER is about creation, origin, the perpetuation of traditions, and about care for the things around us.



Hannah and Mona Ryggen ca. 1925.
Photo: unknown, NTNU University library



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Hannah Ryggen was born Hannah Josefina Maria Jönsson in Malmø, Sweden. She moved to Ørland, Norway, 30 years old to live on a small farm with her husband, painter Hans Ryggen. Their daughter, Mona, was born in 1924. Hannah Ryggen died in Trondheim, Norway, in 1970.

She remains one of the most distinctive and influential textile artists of the 20th century. Throughout her career she was deeply engaged in current issues.



Hans, Mona and Hannah Ryggen, ca. 1930.
Photo: unknown, NTNU University Library



Hannah Ryggen, 1952. Photo:
Schrøderarchives/Sverresborg.

HRT25 will highlight Ryggen's thematic treatment of the roles of mothers and women, show how the strong materiality in her works was rooted in the nature around her, and shed light on how she 'wove herself' into traditions in art and craft. The triennial will also present works by contemporary artists who relate to the mater theme in a similar way, for instance by approaching materiality from an ecological perspective, or by actively seeking out their foremothers in the textile tradition to establish and understand their individual and cultural identity.



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Hannah Ryggen, Mors hjerte (Mother's Heart), 1947. Wool, silk, linen, 190×186 cm. Nordenfjeldske Kunstindustrimuseum.



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The young mother:
her heart
grows beyond her
It's like a jar
she carries with a precious
drink.
In the midst of full-blooded bliss
she is hit straight in the heart –
something is happening to the child.
Her heart is shattered into a thousand
pieces. She scrambles around
picking up shards.
People look powerlessly on.
She gets up and walks
onwards carrying
the burden.

Hannah Ryggen, text to Mors hjerte (Mother's Heart).



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Hannah Ryggen Triennale 2025

MATER: Mother's heart

Nordenfjeldske Kunstindustrimuseum April 4th - September 14th

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#HannahRyggenTriennale #HannahRyggenTriennale2025 #HRT25

Triennale partners 2025:

Trondheim kunstmuseum

Kunsthall Trondheim

Kjøpmannsgata Ung Kunst K-U-K

Trøndelag senter for samtidskunst

Dropsfabrikken

Trondhjems kunstforening

Ørland/Bjugn kunstforening

Other collaborators 2025:

NTNU

PoMo

Litteraturhuset i Trondheim

Kosmorama

HRT25 is made possible through the generous support of our sponsors:

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