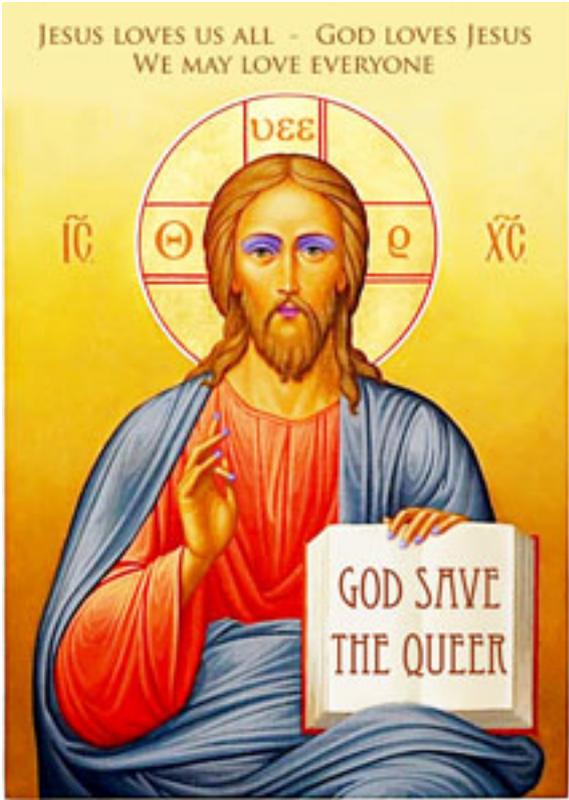


*”Anastasia Vepreva shows a strong and persistent voice approaching her society. Her works (video, performance, drawing etc) are not only critiquing contemporary society but also inviting others to participate in a dialogue on complex issues based in history, religion and politics. AiR Skövde is committed to be a space where Vepreva can excel her practice further.”*

Anna Viola Hallberg, Curator AiR Skövde

**Anastasia Vepreva was the first artist on the AiR Skövde Residency**

**2014-15**



## **Statement by Anastasia Vepreva prior to the residency**

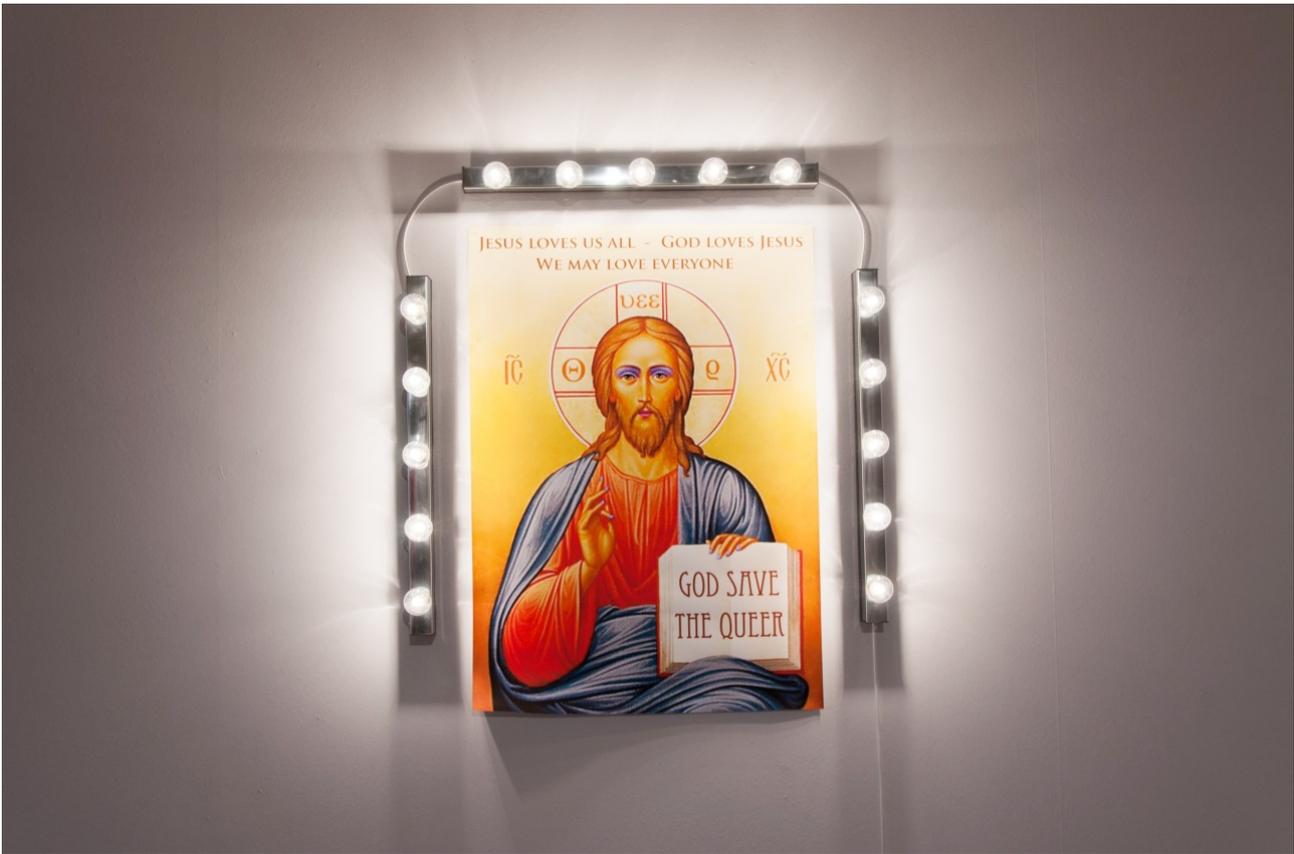
I plan to make my own research of local materials and do a paper based on its results. I do hope that this paper will allow me to develop this theme further and probably make our world a little better.

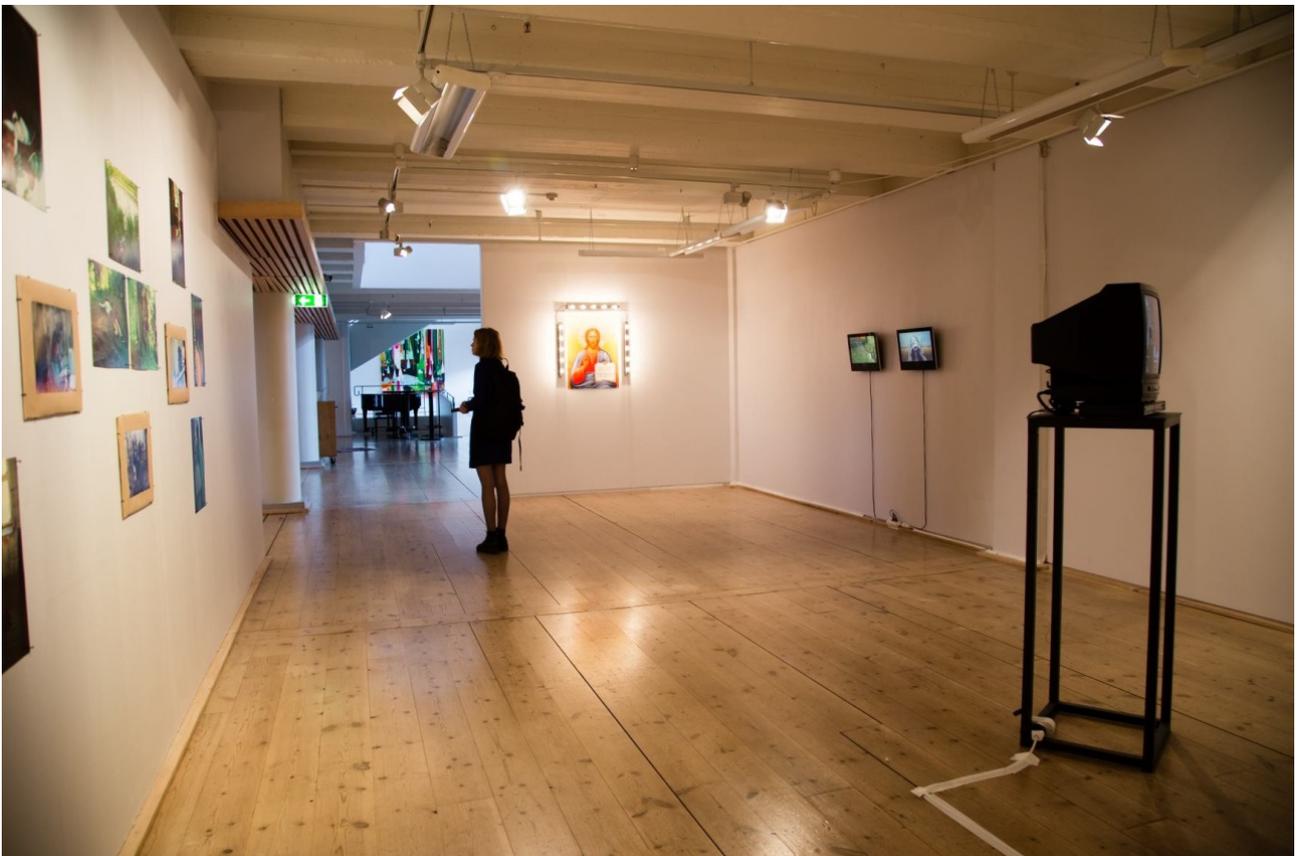
Lately I have been interested in queer theology.

One of my recent projects was devoted to Queer-Jesus. Originally, there were stickers with anonymous appeal to passengers of the Metro, which we secretly pasted on the walls of the carriages. Then stickers were transformed into a pocket calendar with LGBT-community holidays and memorable days. Initially, we wanted to leave these calendars in the church shops, as at first sight they looked like traditional ones. However, due to some risk, we had to give up this idea. So we started distributing them during different cultural events with a great number of potentially interested people. After that an attempt had been made to introduce Jesus to a greater audience by means of graffiti. It was a higher risk, but we managed to do it.

For me, queer is, first of all, the freedom of one's identity choice, regardless of their sex assignment. There is nothing definite and stable in the world and to make it artificially means to destroy the nature itself. I consider Jesus to be a great character, a propagandist, a revolutionary, a Man, who appeals to people to love each other. If one looks at the experience of the first Christian communities, he will glean a lot of important and actual information for today.

The theme of queer theology is extremely taboo nowadays in Russia, because it involves two prohibitive laws: The Russian LGBT propaganda law and Blasphemy law. Because of this, any activities in this sphere face a risk. I think it is unfair. That is why I would like to get valuable experience of overcoming similar society conflicts being in Sweden, in a country, that is a symbol of success and freedom of LGBT-movement for many countries of the world. I understand that it is impossible to reach an absolute success, as each stage brings new problems, but I am sure all the problems have common background and after finding those out you can discover a solution.







Skövde Art Museum, exhibition catalog as pdf: <http://skovde.se/airskovde>

## **Statement for Concept of Paranoia new work by Anastasia Vepeva**

There are so strange relationships between Sweden and Russia. We had so many wars and incidents between us – it looks like a hardcore love.

By the way, this strange situation when everybody started looking for Russian submarine after strange plane's "attacks" gives an occasion to think about specific condition of people. Everybody is sure that Russia is an aggressor. But many people think that this case is very useful for Swedish military, because they want to get more funding from new budget.

As a result, a lot of people are being in a great stress. But why? What is going on? Maybe people are really afraid of new war or The New Cold war or something like this. Therefore they try to save themselves and find some spies in the forest, ocean, rivers, and sky. But they have only one really dangerous spy in their heads – and this is paranoia. This is a case when you try to find something invisible and every shadow looks like a monster.

I've been walking around Skövde many times and I saw a strange huge building looking like castle from Kafka's story. It was Cementa factory and nobody knew what was going on there. Does it currently work or not? Some people say that the factory possibly uses Uranium for production of cement.

But what it is – being paranoiac? Maybe it's a condition when you can only collect strange stories, talk with people and believe in all what they say. As Heidegger wrote – we have only talks and speculations – and they are our worldview. And our diagnosis.

*Work in progress, implemented in the ongoing exhibition "I oss själva"*

*"Symbol of Ukraine"*

*"Lost submarine"*

*"Mushrooms-spies"*

*"Lost military equipment"*

*"Cementa's castle"*

*"What is provocation?"*

*"Lost in the forest"*



Memberships about 1000



The Patriot of Ukraine promotes a radical nationalist, racist and neo-Nazi platform



The Patriot of Ukraine is a Ukrainian nationalist organization with racist and neo-Nazi political beliefs. Founded: 2005



Skovde friskisvets.se  
 Skovde Friskisvets  
 Skovde Friskisvets  
 Skovde Friskisvets  
 Skovde Friskisvets

Välkommen till  
 Carrethälsan  
 som bygger  
 på kvalitet

ARENA SKOVDE

Y-GER DIG VADEN DU BESTÄMMER

ICA

What is it?



De som söker sig hit är motiverade

Utlandsmissioner



Majoren - en myckelperson

är påfrestande för familjen



Hemlig presskonferens om Rysslands ubåtsattack



Ubåtsjakt liknas vid action-rulle



Slingan

INTERSPORT







the concentration in the center - in the area  
near the intersection and - rose above,  
and in intersection of the streets - street.  
This is according to a report

Moreover,  
according to information, in the evening  
the concentration also rose  
in the area

There were no reports of maximum  
level excess levels of other  
substances L..... of field parts,  
it was added by

A black and white line drawing of an industrial facility, possibly a refinery or chemical plant, with various pipes, towers, and structures. In the foreground, two figures are walking along a path or road. The drawing is detailed and uses cross-hatching for shading.



When I just arrived to Sweden from Russia, everybody was looking for russian submarines and spies. It looked like a paranoid pandemic in media. I felt myself a bit uncomfortable when somebody asked me where I was from. I could probably be a spy in their eyes.

At the first week I went to a forest and got lost there. I was alone in the darkness. I didn't know where I found myself. I was really scared. It seemed like something big and dark moved directly to me. I ran as fast as I could and fell down after that. It luckily was my home. When I told this story to my friends it sounded much funnier. Probably I was in four meters from me. But my imagination completed the whole scene by itself.

So,  
How frequently are you afraid of something unknown, spies, submarines and so on?  
Every time when you can't understand what's going on.



## About the residency

AiR Skövde is a new artist residency program in West Sweden Region set up to facilitate diversity from an intersectional approach to support art practice framed with in the Social Turn in Contemporary Art and to provide full artistic freedom to artists from regions where this art practice is under challenge.

The visiting artist is provided with studio space, accommodation, travels a per diem and an exhibition.

AiR Skövde offers an intensive residency, an immersive period of studio and public space practice and artistic exploration that combines the artistic freedom with support from AiR Skövde program. The studio is located at the premises of the art museum and the artist is encouraged to schedule time for consultations and studio visits by technical, pedagogical and curatorial staff.

The artist is encouraged to engage with the community of the specific interest of the artists, participant-driven critique, artist presentations, workshops and seminars. The program this year also offers the opportunity for the artist to have a satellite exhibition to the main exhibition at the art museum the main focus is on having a space to to create, research, and experiment.

The visiting artist is part of a community of artists, curators and creative researchers in West Sweden Region.

Additionally the artist will present the work made during AiR Skövde in St Petersburg in the winter of 2014-15 in collaboration with School of Engaged Art run by the collective Chto Delat.

Jury:

Thomas Oldrell, Director, **Art department, Skövde Cultural Centre**,  
thomas.oldrell@skovde.se, +46500498562

Anna Viola Hallberg, Curator of AiR Skövde, air@skovde.se, +46709356608

Tomas Asplund Gustavsson, Curator, **Art department, Skövde Cultural centre**

For more info and press images please visit: <http://www.skovde.se/airskovde>

Project is made with support from:

West Sweden Region/Västra Götalandsregionen & Swedish Institute, Creative Force

Part of the AiR program is developed in close collaboration with School of Engaged Art, St Petersburg Russia.

KONSTMUSEET  SKÖVDE KULTURHUS

**The Art museum, Skövde Cultural Centre**

**Trädgårdsgatan 9, 541 30 Skövde, Sweden**  
<http://skovde.se/kulturhus>

