

Film Director from New York found work peace in Upperud.

From the hustle and bustle of Brooklyn, New York City to the tranquility of Upperud in Dalsland. The couple Mark and Susanne Boswell took that step so that Mark would have peace of mind with his latest film. What was supposed to be a few weeks of wandering around ended up being three months. The Boswell couple have been living in the red Bagarstugan next to Café Bonaparte and Dalsland's art museum since the beginning of December 2023. At the end of February, the couple is moving on. They also have their two cats from New York with them, who have settled in well in the house. That they ended up in Upperud is the merit of museum director Jörgen Svensson. He was a visiting professor at the San Francisco Art Institute at the same time Mark was teaching there. - We became friends and he invited me to the Valand Art Academy. Unfortunately, it could not be carried out then, but we have been in contact over the years. In the summer of 2023, we met in New York and then he said that the offer still stood. We said yes straight away, says Mark. A great honor! He is used to working with a lot of noise around him, Mark believes that New York takes a lot of energy. - So it is unusual for me to be able to sit and work in peace and quiet. It is significant to experience it. We have traveled around Dalsland and, among other things, visited Not Quite, Steneby School and Nuntorp Gård. We borrowed skis from Fritidsbanken in Åmål and took a ride, but it wasn't very long because it was 20 degrees cold, says Mark smiling.

Mark's background.

Mark studied film production and film theory at various institutions in Switzerland, France, Germany and the USA in the years 1986-1992. His experimental film work has been screened internationally in over 25 countries. Some of his most screened films include Unknown Unknown(s) (2009) and USSA: Secret Manual of the Soviet Politburer, (2001).

For many years, Boswell has taught at the San Francisco Art Institute, the Ringling College of Art and Design, Florida, and the Pratt Institute in New York. Originally from Germany, Susanne leads tours for international guests throughout the United States, primarily along the Northeast coast. High season is between April and October, so the trip to Sweden meant a much-needed break.

Updating a movie.

Now Mark is working on his second feature film: "Nova Conspiracy - The KGB Infiltration of Walt Disney's Brain." - I have all the material for the film on a hard drive. It's a film from 2012, but it was too early to show it then. Now, however, it is relevant, so I sit and update it to today's reality. The film is largely about how propaganda has invaded the American systems. The film will be released this year at various film festivals in Europe, Mark explains. He describes his films as a mix of fact and fiction. They are often critical, for example of American politicians and global warming.

Friendly welcome.

Both enjoy themselves very well in Dalsland and say that they are treated nicely by everyone. After all, it snowed heavily during the stay, which was a wonderful experience for the New Yorkers. – “Swedes are very open and friendly. An example is when we were on the train to Gothenburg and it didn't work to pay the ticket via the mobile app. A completely unknown young man offered to help us - two complete strangers – and purchased our tickets. There is hope for the young generation, emphasizes Susanne!

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