

GUNNEL WÅHLSTRAND

– paintings from the Collection of Magasin 3 Stockholm Konsthall

September 30 – December 17, 2006

Gunnel Wählstrand, born 1974 in Enskede, lives and works in Stockholm.

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*The procedure is like that of developing photographs - the slow process is a way of further enhancing the memory...*

Gunnel Wählstrand bases her work on her family's photo album. Time-consuming, large-scale, and with great precision, she paints from photographs of her father's early childhood. The photographs show the west coast of Sweden, interiors from the 1950s, a garden outside a house, often with posing family members. With ink and water she paints on paper measuring more than 200 x 150 cm. She herself has compared her method with the photographic development process, saying that her work is "a way of further enhancing memory..."

In her final exhibition at the Royal University College of Fine Arts in Stockholm in 2003, Gunnel Wählstrand presented six paintings that she had been working on daily for two years. The director of Magasin 3, David Neuman, describes the encounter as "... one of those incredible experiences that you don't have that many times in life. A student thesis exhibition that surpassed most of what I've seen over the past 20 years..." The paintings featured in the exhibition are in the Collection of Magasin 3 Stockholm Konsthall. Three of them are from the thesis exhibition in 2003 and one is from 2004, *Långe drag*.

Gunnel Wählstrand has been widely acknowledged for her paintings. She has been awarded grants by the Maria Bonnier Dahlin Foundation and the Anna Lisa Thomsson Foundation (2003 and 2004). She was represented at The Armory Show in New York (2004), and the Spring Exhibition at Liljevalchs Konsthall, Stockholm (2001 and 2002). She is currently working on a series of paintings extending her work based on photographic images.