

## Press release *Passing Motherhood* Hannah Rygggen Triennale 2025: MATER

**The new exhibition at Trondheim kunstmuseum, *Passing Motherhood*, is a poignant exploration of the many dimensions of motherhood.**

In what ways is motherhood shaped by politics, history and migration? What influence do war, displacement and legacy have on the relations between mothers, children and society? These are the central themes in the new exhibition *Passing Motherhood*, opening on 4 April at Trondheim kunstmuseum.

*Passing Motherhood* is a diverse exhibition that reaches far beyond the individual experience of motherhood. Through its unique interplay between artworks, historical objects and testimonies, the exhibition explores the many ways in which motherhood is continuously created, contested and transferred – across bodies, geographies and generations.

*“At Trondheim kunstmuseum, we are incredibly proud to present this exhibition featuring works by internationally renowned artists working in dialogue with key works such as Hannah Rygggen’s *Grini* (1945), from the museum’s collection.”*

- Ingrid Lunnan, acting director, Trondheim kunstmuseum

### **A deep dive into the political and sensory landscape of motherhood**

The exhibition presents a number of powerful artworks and installations illuminating different aspects of motherhood. From Sheba Chhachhi and Sonia Jabbar’s *When the Gun is Raised, Dialogue Stops...*, relaying the voices of Kashmiri women, to Hannah Rygggen’s iconic tapestry *Grini*, which illustrates motherhood in times of war. Aline Motta’s *A água é uma máquina do tempo* (Water is a Time Machine) demonstrates how the bond between mother and daughter is intertwined across centuries of racial oppression, colonisation and forgotten dreams, whereas Marin Shamov’s interactive work *Mother\*hood Instruction* offers a unique perspective on complex motherhood in the digital realm.

## **Interactive experiences and institutional critique**

Visitors are invited to navigate the exhibition through a number of trails, encouraging a uniquely personal experience. Louise Bourgeois's small, yet monumental sculpture *Femme* and Elise Storsveen's large-scale textile work *Fødselen* both portray pregnancy as a condition that represents simultaneously enormous power and vulnerable transformation. Veslemøy Lilleengen's *Grunntanker* opens up for the public to participate in the work by bringing soil from their own local area and shaping it into polished spheres using the Japanese *dorodango* technique. Thora Dolven Balke's *Gravitas* explores tender care, whereas Basma Al-Sharif's *Morning Circle* casts a critical eye on the ways in which national ideology is imparted already during childhood.

## **An invitation to engage in reflection and dialogue**

*Passing Motherhood* is not only an art exhibition, but an invitation to reflect upon legacy, care and what is transferred – either through crafts, stories or resistance. Featuring a combination of historical works, contemporary art and interactive elements, the exhibition creates a space to re-think what motherhood signifies now.

*“Through a dialogue with artist, researcher and co-curator Yaniya Mikhalina, we have developed a number of different approaches to motherhood, including the correlation between migration and body, what the home represents to a child, and how the aftereffects of war can persist through several generations. In our roles as curators, we consciously take a stand by challenging the heteronormative understanding of motherhood, thereby rejecting the one-sided idealisation of a mother as a version of “Madonna and Child”. In an era marked by wars, polarisation and a right-wing surge, we feel there is a need to expand our perspectives on solidarity and care.”*

- Marianne Zamecznik, lead curator, Trondheim kunstmuseum

Welcome to Trondheim kunstmuseum and an exhibition that challenges, moves and inspires.

## Hannah Ryggen Triennale 2025: MATER opening 4 April

The Hannah Ryggen Triennale (HRT) is an exhibition spread across several venues in and around Trondheim every three years. The Triennale endeavours to honour the artistic legacy of Hannah Ryggen (1894-1970), who created her artworks in Ørland and Trondheim.

You are welcome to join us for the opening reception of the Hannah Ryggen Triennale on 4 April, when four of the eight Triennale exhibitions will open to the public.

Entry is free of charge throughout the evening.

18:00 Nordenfjeldske Kunstindustrimuseum

**19:00 Trondheim kunstmuseum (Bispegata)**

20:00 Kunsthall Trondheim

21:00 K-U-K Kjøpmannsgata Ung Kunst

22:00 The opening reception continues at K-U-K

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