



Pressrelease:  
**FIRST AID**

A permanent embellishment for Södertälje's City Hall.

Artist: Tobias Sjöberg

Installation: November 2008

Tobias Sjöberg, artist, invited politicians from all political parties within the Borough Council of Södertälje to take part in his work entitled "First Aid". Politicians participated in a First Aid course held by members of The Red Cross.

Politicians were required to act in their usual working environment and to literally save one another's life. They lay scattered on the floor in front of the Speaker's Chair, bleeding, in a state of shock, unconscious and bewildered. Their normal roles and ideological adherence dissolved. New rules evolved in the resulting chaos and drama which ensued.

This work discusses the theatre and dynamics of politics. Politicians, as a group, are a representative cross-section of society and they are elected to represent different interests. This occasion became the politicians' first meeting in the newly built Chamber of Democracy. Who helped who? The ally or the opponent? Who cried the loudest and were those who cried the loudest the first to receive help? Was rhetoric replaced by emotion? Did First Aid cross ideological boundaries?

The happening was photographically recorded. On the 1st November 2008 the photographic work was permanently installed in Södertälje's new town hall, adjacent to the Chamber of Democracy.

For more information please contact:

Kristina Möller, Curator Södertälje Konsthall

kristina.moller@sodertalje.se

Address:

Södertälje Stadshus

Kampusgatan 26

151 89, Södertälje