

# Call for Secret Hotel's 1st Summer Lab

2015



**Secret Hotel** invites you to participate in our first **Landscape Dialogues Summer Lab**, at an old farm in the beautiful hills of Mols, situated in Mols Bjerge National Park, Denmark.

**August 20th - 30th**  
**Where: Mols, 1h away from Aarhus**  
(directions further down)



The Landscape Dialogues Summer Lab, organized by the association Secret Hotel, offers 10 places for performing artists, other creatives, as well as professionals from other fields: You could be a biologist, anthropologist, sociologist, philosopher, etc. We want to invite people who wish to investigate interdisciplinary practices, which relate to concrete place, space and landscape.

The investigations will happen through sensory, experiential and somatic explorations in a number of workshops. These workshops will include exchanges of ideas, theory and practice. Also presentations will be given by the participants. The work will take place outside a lot of the time.

One aspect of interest for artistic as well as non-artistic participants could for instance be the Anthropocene, and what this notion does to our ways of relating. The Summer Lab invites the participants to try out interdisciplinary investigations of methods and modes of expression, and we will also programme time for open space, mental digesting, personal exploration and experiments.

## **Programme 20th – 30th August 2015**

**20th August** Arrival Day, Introduction and Welcome

**21st – 23rd August** Feldenkrais Workshop with Meytal Blanaru

**26th – 28th August** Workshop with members of ‘Other Spaces’

**24th, 25th, 29th August** Lab Days

**30th August** Departure Day, after lunch

## The Workshop Days

### *21st – 23rd August: Feldenkrais Workshop with Meytal Blanaru*

Dancer and choreographer **Meytal Blanaru** departs from the Feldenkrais method as an inspiration and an approach to the action of learning. Meytal has been diving into this work since 2008, building a specific, detailed body practice.

The main goal is to ‘unlock’ movement patterns by delicately destabilizing them, so that new possibilities become accessible to us.

This offers a fresh, different approach to our learning process, allowing us to ‘tap’ into a deeper, more primal understanding of our body and it’s mechanics. Through this process, new tastes, pleasures and creativity arise, opening rapidly new movement pathways, unveiling an ocean of possibilities. As a result, the richness within all bodily

movement (daily as well as artistic) grows, and its quality deepens.

Find out more about **Meytal Blanaru** further down and here: [www.meytalblanaru.com](http://www.meytalblanaru.com)

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### *26th – 28th August: Workshop with the collective ‘Other Spaces’ (‘Toisissa Tiloissa’)*

As part of the collective ‘Other Spaces’, the performers and teachers **Minja Mertanen** and **Lauri Kontula** invent and develop collective physical exercises through which one can visit ‘other spaces’, i.e. enter into modes of being and experiences other than human.

‘Other Spaces’ has invented more than 100 exercises through which we can temporarily change our mode of being. The shortest exercises last for a couple of minutes, while the longer ones take up to several hours. The exercises are based on bodily techniques and a set of rules so simple that

anybody can do them.

It does not matter how it looks from the outside and there is no ‘trance’ at play – the exercises function like simple, social choreographies.

Find out more about ‘Other Spaces’ further down and here: [www.toisissatiloissa.net](http://www.toisissatiloissa.net)



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All participants will be asked to engage practically throughout the lab. But we have past experience of facilitating practical work in such a way that makes it accessible and meaningful for everybody.

## The Lab-Days

In between the intensive workshop sessions, we are inviting a handful of experts to share their diverse expertise in such subjects as **Philosophy, Biology, Permaculture** and **Shamanism**. More info about the guests and lectures will be published soon on

[www.secrethotel.dk/sommerlab](http://www.secrethotel.dk/sommerlab)

## *Work-in-progress, exchange and sharing*

Furthermore, we want to encourage an active exchange and meeting forum among the participants, teachers and guests. Therefore, time will be reserved for individual presentations, work-in-progress showings, bonfire evenings, sauna and, of course, shared meals – all will be organic and of primarily local produce, and mostly vegetarian (included in the

participation fee).

In order to keep the participation fee (also incl. accommodation) at an affordable price, rooms will be shared by 2-3 participants in Secret Hotel's residency house, and in summer houses in walk-able distances from the farm. Camping is possible, we can provide tents and this will give a small reduction in the participation fee (all meals still shared).





## The umbrella-programme 'Landscape Dialogues' and Secret Hotel

This Summer Lab is our first and is part of Secret Hotel's several year long investigation Landscape Dialogues, which began in autumn 2013.

The focus of the Lab will be on the intersection between participatory performing arts (and other art forms), sustainable approaches and landscapes/surroundings/territory/land.

The core value of Landscape Dialogues is a curiosity about how art can influence people's relationship to their surroundings. And how art can possibly enhance their connections to the elements that constitute their surroundings. These core values are the foundation of most of Secret Hotel's activities. The Lab has been born out of three years of hosting the Barn Art Symposia, [see here for more info and photos](#).

If you cannot join the Summer Lab, but find Landscape Dialogues interesting, please get in touch and hear more about our residency programme.

**Secret Hotel** creates participatory performing art – experiences which are sensuous and at the same time stimulating for the intellect. We view Secret Hotel as a spacious "place" with multiple and diverse "rooms". At present our focus is to heighten the awareness towards our surroundings. We do this by investigating connections between humans and the world we live in. Inspired by the Deep Ecology philosophy, we ask 'what happens if we view all as if there is no difference between culture and nature?'

Our work is often site-specific, but it can also be a dancing lecture in the gym-hall of your school, a walk in a landscape, or something else. We wish to extend the notion of 'theatre', which we partly do by viewing the audience as guests and co-creators.



Secret Hotel was founded in 1999 by dramaturge Synne Behrndt and today's artistic director Christine Fentz (dramaturge, director, performer). The association has its administrative base in Aarhus, and runs many activities in the countryside of Mols. We tour children and youth performances in Denmark, tour adult performances abroad, organise performances, workshops, and the annual 'Barn Art Symposium'. And at present we are developing a residency centre in Mols.

[www.secrethotel.dk](http://www.secrethotel.dk)

## Location and Accommodation 'Drejs Gaard' and National Park Mols Bjerge

The Summer Lab will be held on and around an 18th century small farm, where Artistic Director of Secret Hotel, **Christine Fentz**, lives. The landscape is quite unique, and Secret Hotel has access to the following facilities: A small studio space, atelier flat, a house with five bedrooms and a fantastic view over the bay (you may be surprised by the wild deer).

In 2009 the area around the farm, protected since the 1960's, as well as much of the land in the Mols area, was declared National Park Mols Bjerge. This change of status means that the landscape is slowly changing. And this situation creates at times demanding challenges to the way we perceive and interact with the landscape. Reasons to contemplate on the labels of 'culture', 'nature', 'free time', etc.

[www.eng.nationalparkmolsbjerge.dk](http://www.eng.nationalparkmolsbjerge.dk)



## About the teachers



### *Meytal Blanaru*

Born in Israel in 1982, Meytal Blanaru is a Brussels based dancer, choreographer and teacher. Meytal has been developing a personal, ongoing movement research that deeply altered the way she moved and perceived the body. She uses the Feldenkrais method as a departure point & inspiration. Her curiosity to create a fusion between Feldenkrais and dance led her to slowly build a very specific, detailed body practice. This process is the foundation of her choreographic work, that has developed since 2008 through her Solo and collaborative works.

Since moving to Europe in 2009, she has worked with among others: Lisi Estaras/"Les ballets C de la B", Damien Jalet/"Eastman" Dance Company, Roberto Oliván, Samuel Lefeuvre, Clara Fury and Martin Kilvady.

[www.meytalblanaru.com](http://www.meytalblanaru.com)



### *Lauri Kontula and Minja Mertanen from the Collective 'Other Spaces' ('Toisissa Tiloissa')*

Other Spaces is a Helsinki based live art collective.

The working principles of the collective are continuous training, exercise as a mode of performance and metamorphosis as a common theme of exercises.

During the eleven years of the collective's existence, the themes of the work have become more political and ecological. The role of the audience is always participatory. Other Spaces has performed in Italy, Denmark, Germany, Scotland a.o.

The members of the collective come from various fields of arts. The convenor is Esa Kirkkopelto, philosopher and artistic researcher, head of Tutke – the Dep. for Artistic Research at the Finnish Theatre Academy. Other Spaces is a founding member of PERFORMANCE CENTRE, an umbrella organisation and working space for live arts and performance professionals.

[www.esitystaide.fi](http://www.esitystaide.fi)

## Practical Information and Application

### *How to apply:*

Please send us your **CV** or a **short bio**, along with a **short letter** about why you would like to participate in the Summer Lab: What are your expectations, ideas, interests and questions, and what possible practices and experiments you would like to try out or share during the Lab?

### *Application Deadline: 3rd of May, 2015*

Please send your application to: Project Assistant Kathrine Kihm:  
[kathrine@secrethotel.dk](mailto:kathrine@secrethotel.dk)

You will hear from us whether your application has been accepted latest by May 10th.

### *Participation costs (including food and indoor accommodation): 4.000 DKK / 530€*

The participants are responsible for their own travel. More info below.  
We will inform you further about national and local transport options.

**Arrival day** 20th August, latest by 4pm

**Departure day** 30th August, after 1pm

### *Artistic direction and curation:*

Christine Fentz ([mail@secrethotel.dk](mailto:mail@secrethotel.dk))  
and Dagmar Dachauer ([dagmar.dachauer@gmail.com](mailto:dagmar.dachauer@gmail.com))

Secret Hotel: +45-50556263

Lab address: Drejs' Gaard, Provstskovvej 9, Bogens, 8400 Ebeltoft.

[www.secrethotel.dk](http://www.secrethotel.dk)

### *Transportation info*

We can inform each of you in more detail how to get from Copenhagen or Aarhus by train/bus. Pick-ups in Aarhus can be organized.

Ryan Air flies to Aarhus, some companies fly to Billund (2h by airport bus), and in Copenhagen Airport the train leaves directly from the arrival terminal, so please do not buy tickets for domestic flights, but take the train instead.

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Secret Hotel is supported (2014 - 2016) by the Aarhus Municipality.

Landscape Dialogues Summer Lab is supported by the Danish Arts Council.

**SECRET HOTEL**



**THE DANISH ARTS FOUNDATION**