From the group exhibition
INTERAKT at Hospitalet, Uppsala 2025
Curated by Johanna Udden and Eva Björkman
Organised by konstfrämjandet Uppland

In here I become part of you and you become part of me, we become together, 2025

Durantrans, Lightbox and chairs

The trees in this park are almost 150 years old. They were planted when Hospitalet was built, with the intention that the park environment would support the patients' recovery.
Here, we are invited to step into the space within a grove of thujas. The thuja has a strong historical symbolism and plays an important role in the ceremonies and medicinal practices of some Native American communities. In the 1500s, the explorer Jacques Cartier was introduced to the medicinal properties of the thuja and gave it the Latin name *Arbor Vitae*, which means *Tree of Life*. Today, we mostly know the thuja as a heavily commercialized species, often used for hedges and frequently marketed as a popular tree said to "increase the aesthetic value of a property." Through this artwork, the artist aims to restore the thuja's dignity and create a new relationship with it. Fossil findings show that coniferous forests, including thuja-like plants, spread across the Northern Hemisphere around 50 million years ago. The oxygen produced through photosynthesis helped create a balanced climate that was essential for the development of our ecosystem.

The image on the right shows the artist's hand holding a 35-million-year-old fossil of a thuja.







Inside the tree’s inner space, there are chairs inviting us to sit, experience the space, and take part in the artwork.



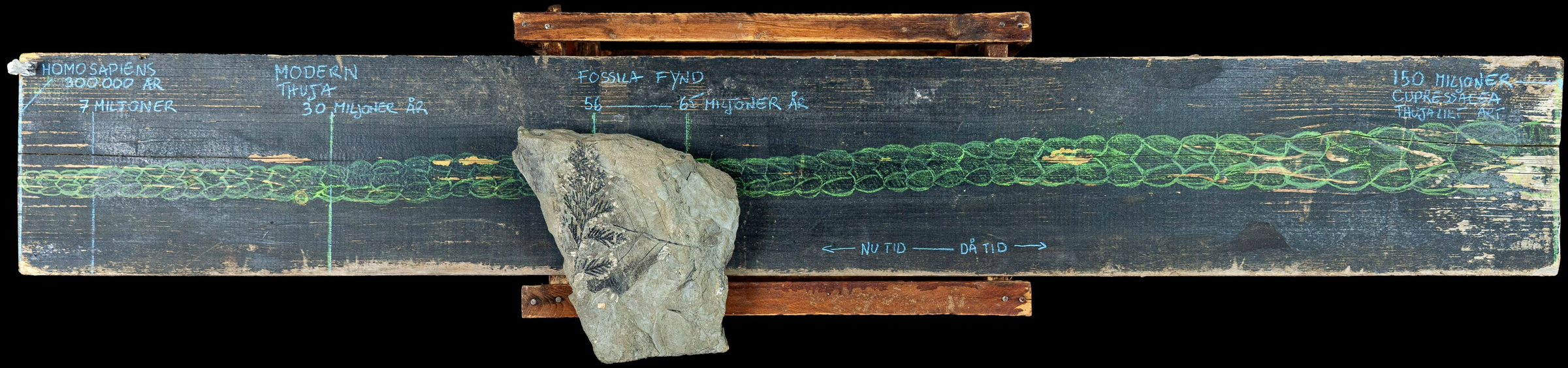


In here I become part of you and you become part of me, we become together, 2025

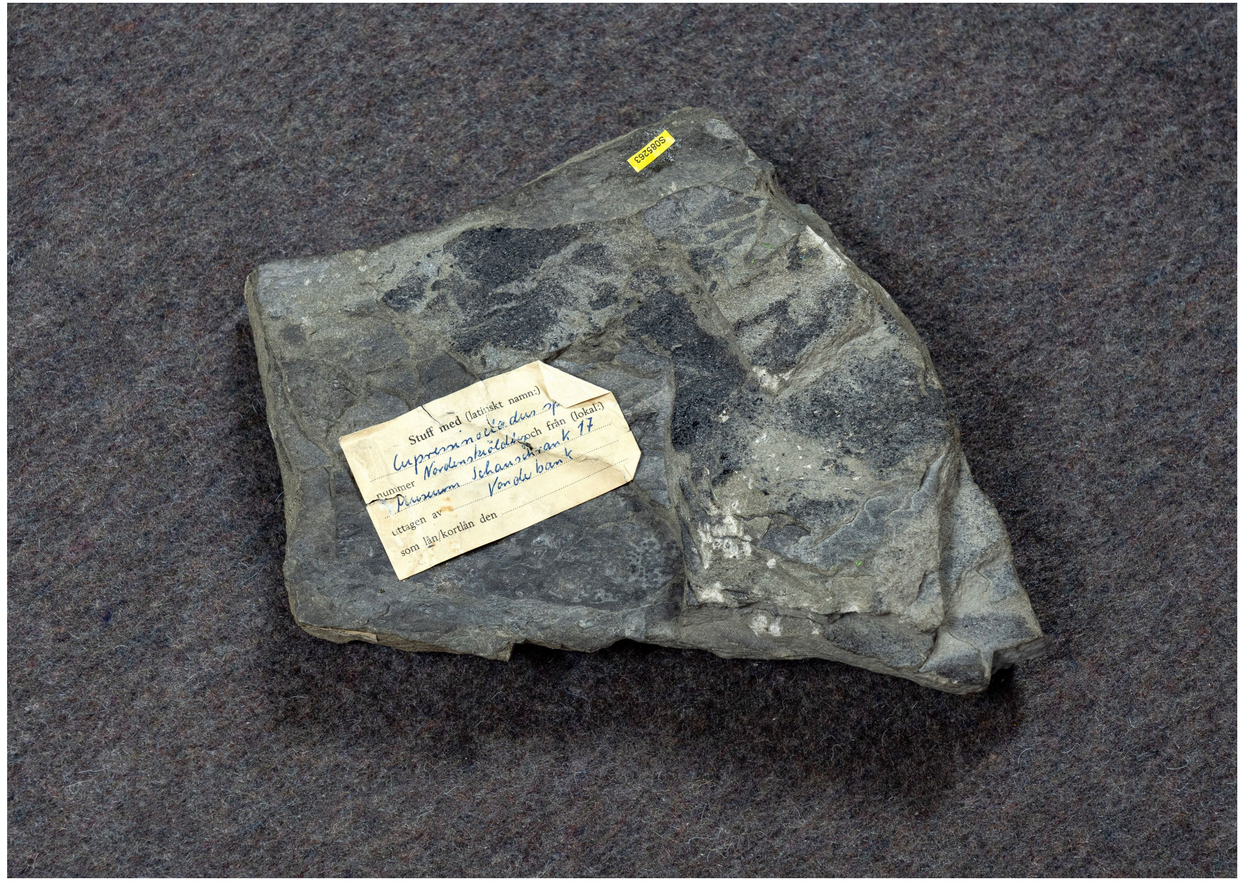
Part 2 : performance Lecture and Timeline
Drawing on wood and 55 million year old fossil of Thuja

The second part of the work is a performance lecture that juxtaposes the timeline of human evolution with that of the Thuja species.
The performance and the timeline were part of the program on the opening day of the exhibition.

…The Thuja and its close ancestors have existed since the Eocene. Fossil evidence shows that coniferous forests, including Thuja-like plants, spread across the Northern Hemisphere during this period. This takes us back about 50 million years. The oxygen produced through photosynthesis helped create a balanced climate necessary for the evolution of complex ecosystems, which later included the human species, among others…







The fossil was borrowed from the Museum of Natural history in Stockholm.
It is the fossil of an approximately 50 million year old thuja with a leaf from another tree (unknown)
The fossil was extracted in Svalbard in 1904 by one of the Nordensköld expeditions.
It became part of the Schweizer collection in Germany until being handed over to the Museum in Stockholm

©Alvaro Campo Studio 2025
mail: alvaro.g.campo@me.com
web: www.alvarocampo.com
mobil: +46708475743