

**Speech by Jørg Willy Bronebakk at the opening of Marit Benthe Norheim's exhibition "Life-Boats" at the Women's Museum in Århus 30.03.2012**

It is always rewarding to be the Norwegian Ambassador in Denmark. Sometimes it is particularly enjoyable. This is one of those occasions, because Marit Benthe Norheim is an artist of a rare calibre. She throws herself into large, and literally boundary-breaking projects. She has a solid professional approach and never compromises on artistic quality. This is really to be respected!

Norheim often refers to the importance of a sense of belonging. As a Norwegian, it is particularly gratifying to hear that she has always felt secure in her linguistic and emotional connection to Norway. I am pleased to hear this!

As a person, she has a rare ability to communicate with all kinds of people. This ability to create contact is something that she uses actively in her art. It contributes to giving the artworks a more accessible expression, which opens up to a new kind of audience, one which does not normally go to see art exhibitions.

Another device that Norheim uses is the power of the feminine. This is very obvious in this exhibition, where the female body is formed into boats and is a reminder of what is important for the preservation of life.

The plan for the boats to sail through Europe and create a network of contacts between North and South, makes it a diplomatic and interpersonal mission!

Congratulations on your exhibition at the Women's Museum and thank you very much for allowing me the opportunity to say a few words!

*Jørg Willy Bronebakk*  
*The Norwegian Ambassador in Denmark*