I telefonen finns hela människan


Henrik Teleman

The mobile contains the whole human

“Swedish men are so good looking, but they never give us Arab girls a glance. I don’t know why. They never talk to us or flirt with us. Don’t they like our appearance? Or are they scared of us?”

“The war made it all difficult. The electricity was switched off and there was no heat. We slept in our thick outerwear, hugging a container of hot water. We never threw out our paper towels. We saved them and allowed them to dry, so that we could burn them for heating.”

“When I arrived in Sweden, I first went to my sister in Malmö. In our first conversation she said: ‘Listen to me, brother. This country is different from Syria. You must follow the law here. You may not violate the rules. You can’t make mistakes and you must learn Swedish.’”

They are welders, teachers or football players. They have children. They have gone to school. They have been in love. The last thing they want to be is a refugee.

During the autumn of 2015, the world truly arrived in Sweden. They came in their thousands from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Eritrea and many other countries. Like something out of television.

The mobile contains the whole human is an acclaimed exhibition and book project by the artist Henrik Teleman. The exhibition and the book contains interviews with 90 people from refugee settlements across Sweden, on a wide range of topics including love, work and future dreams, but also their reasons for leaving their home countries and their meeting with Sweden. Their mobile phone pictures are presented together with their stories.

Henrik Teleman is known for his big ethnological art projects and for having started Virserum Art Museum, where he was the director for many years. Teleman’s art projects always place the common person at their centre, both as narrator and audience.

Exhibition touring Sweden:
1/7-1/10 Gotlands museum
14/10 2017-7/1 2018 Upplandsmuseet
11/11 2017-21/1 2018 Arbetets museum
20/1–18/3 Malmö Musee,
24/3–27/5 Örebro läns museum
9/4-27/5 Kalmar läns museum
16/6-9/9 Jönköpings läns museum

Swedish national radio is producing 20 short programs, broadcasting begins 21/10

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