



Press Release, March 28, 2012

## ELNA SVENLE APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF VANDALORUM

Vandalorum is pleased to announce the appointment of New York-based curator and art critic Elna Svenle as the new Museum Director. Ms. Svenle begins her new position at Vandalorum on August 1, 2012, succeeding Sune Nordgren. Ms. Svenle's first exhibition at Vandalorum will open in early 2013.

### **About Vandalorum & Renzo Piano:**

VANDALORUM Center for Art & Design is located in Värnamo in the south of Sweden and was inaugurated in April 2011. Renzo Piano has created the architectural concept of Vandalorum, inspired by traditional Swedish materials and building techniques. A monumental red barn for drying hay once dominated the location. Renzo Piano has multiplied this barn into eleven barns placed in a circle. To date, five out of the eleven barns have been completed.

**Elna Svenle** (b. 1979) most recently worked as the Curator of The Wanås Foundation in Sweden. Previously, she was a Curatorial Assistant at MoMA / PS1 in Long Island City, New York. Among the artists Ms. Svenle has made exhibitions with are Sophie Calle, Henrik Håkansson, Emily Prince, Tomás Saraceno, and Ann-Sofi Sidén. Ms. Svenle is a contemporary art critic and writer for Dagens Nyheter, the leading daily Swedish newspaper, among other publications. She holds a B.A. in Art History from Lund University and an M.A. in Curating Contemporary Art from the Royal College of Art in London. Ms. Svenle currently shares her time between New York and Sweden.

**Sven Lundh, Initiator of Vandalorum:** "The image preceded the word, and still communication is carried out through images or interpretations of images. The seeing is important, and the aim of Vandalorum is to increase the seeing as a resource in daily life. It strengthens the imagination, which is fundamental to all development. With Elna Svenle's entry as Museum Director, Vandalorum will receive an exceptional mediator of this way of thinking, which will enrich all visitors and friends of Vandalorum."

**Elna Svenle:** "I have with great interest followed the development of Vandalorum over the years and feel honored to now take over after Sune Nordgren. Vandalorum has in a short period of time become an important and valuable site for contemporary art and design. I want to contribute with my international perspective. I also look forward to living and working in this beautiful and dynamic part of Sweden."

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