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## High culture at street level

"With this simple and elegant conceptual act, FA+ summarizes and goes beyond what many artists, politicians, and ideologues have discussed for years: to present high culture at street level without making any exceptions in form or substance"

*Charlotte Bydler, Professor, PhD in Art History, Art Critic and Museum Curator.*

THE UNIVERSAL LIBRARY is an artistic work that honors authors through their own texts and simultaneously raises children and youth's lust for reading and creativity. It could be a permanent and/or temporary installation in the public space.

Pedestrians are confronted to a selection of quotes from the authors without any prior introduction. The installation is like an open book where people walk through the texts to read them; and the quotations will be a permanent and teasing introduction to the author's texts for coming generations.

As a collateral effect, the streets with THE UNIVERSAL LIBRARY become an obligatory stop for all visitors to the city, it revitalizes the area, resulting in new restaurants and cafes along the street.

The work is characterized by its discrete monumentalism. The materials, asphalt/stone and stainless steel belong to the milieu in a natural way. The use of typography for the letters, totally free from decoration to obtain maximal ease in reading for the pedestrians, is the same type used for public information boards.

The line of citations offers a fresh alternative to the unavoidable text pollution about bargains, sales and advertisements from the shops along the street.

THE UNIVERSAL LIBRARY is placed in locations relevant to the author's birth- or workplace. The quotations are suggested by the citizens' through a home page; later on the quality assurance and selection is done by the author's experts in cooperation with FA+.



The Universal Library was created in 1994 when quotations from author August Strindberg's texts were painted on Drottninggatan, in pedestrian street in central Stockholm, where Strindberg worked and lived until his death 1912.

In 1998 the installation became permanent using stainless steel letters inserted in the street's asphalt. Since then new volumes were edited in several cities and texts from new authors. Materials have varied from styrofoam and blond hair floating in water to steel in stone on the sidewalk. Here are pictures from The Universal Library.

Strindberg in Stockholm

1994 the quotes were painted directly on the street. At the request of the citizens was made permanent 1998 with stainless steel inlay in the street asphalt.



Ibsen in Oslo

2006. Stainless steel on granite



Kant in Kaliningrad

2005. Styrofoam in water



Adlersparre in Falun

2007. Blond hair in water



LEV! Sara Lidman in Umeå



Sign, stainless steel and LED lighting 5 m. x 7.5 m.



Quote in Braille, wood on glass mosaic



Bench LEV! Cement, heated and illuminated from below, 5m x 7.5m placed as the meeting point of the new train station.



Quotes in bicycle path stainless steel in cement installed in asphalt



Glass Wall with LED lighting 170 m long and variable height, 700 sq. meter with 33 quotations, pictures and interactive sound.

Kierkegaard in Köpenhamn

2013. It was first a temporary citation at the new Royal Library fountain which then moved to become permanent on the quay and two permanent quotes on Nytorv and one at the Church of Our Lady.



Växjö Quotations 2014

Carl von Linné, Sven Fagerberg, Karl Vennberg, Alfred Hedenstierna (Sigurd), Elisabeth Bergstrand - Poulsen, Peter Nilson, Vilhelm Moberg, Elin Wägner, Pär Lagerkvist, Esaias Tegner, Agnes von Krusenstjerna.

The quotations builds the "Culture path", Klostergatan/Storgatan/Västergatan with 22 quotes.

