

## **Open Space- an investigation of spaces in-between in Husby, 2012**

The million programme suburb Husby, north of Stockholm, is going through a major urban regeneration. The structure plan is imbued with the idea of controlling people's movements in the public space of the area while opportunities to take shortcuts are built away. Therefore I explore the spaces in-between as both physical space and liminal concept of the public space. I define spaces in-between as being without a clearly defined use or identity. They might be used as passages or be completely deserted forgotten spaces.

According to the city plan for Husby these spaces in-between will be appropriated for specific uses. I mean that these gaps are needed not to control all spontaneous movements and events in the area. It is important when rebuilding an existing residential area, to allow and safeguard the spaces in-between as an expression of freedom for the residents and as potential sites in the common public space for all kinds of temporary social activities.

Informed by Foucault's concept of heterotopia I make spatial interventions exploring the performativity of the spaces in-between in this neighborhood.

Heterotopias are a kind of counter-spaces to real spaces in society, but they are nonetheless existing physical locations. They differ from fundamentally unreal utopias. Utopias and heterotopias share according to Foucault, a place and that is the mirror. The mirror is an utopia as it is a spaceless place. In the mirror I see myself where I am not, but it gives me my visibility to myself: I see myself where I am absent. However the mirror is also an heterotopia as it exists in real life, but it evokes a kind of counter-place of the place I am in. I detect in the mirror my absence from the place I am in, seeing myself in the mirror image inside the mirror.

### **Open Space I, mirror installation, Husby 2012**









**Open Space II, mirrorinstallation, Husby 2012**











**Open Space III, mirrorinstallation, Husby, 2012**















