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Networks and *Annika by the Sea*

Annika Öhrner



Annika Karlsson Rixon looking for the light. Aldeburg, June 2000. Photo: Marit Jacobsen

How can it be claimed that the women portrayed in *Annika by the Sea* by the Swedish artist Annika Karlsson Rixon, constitute a network? It can seem a little arbitrary to say that these individuals, connected in various ways with the international art world, do that. To have been named one name rather than another should hardly warrant inclusion in a group. But to have been born in Sweden during a certain time and given the name Annika does signify something about cultural identity, even if it is hard to pinpoint exactly what this is. The name occurs very frequently in this generation, and is also associated with Annika the well-

mannered friend of Pippi Longstocking in Astrid Lindgren's famous story. What Karlsson Rixon does by the very act of choosing this criteria, posing these people before the world's seas and using the concept of a network, is to create and reveal a context rather than to depict a reality.

Annika von Hausswolf is photographed by the Atlantic Ocean, Annika Larsson by the Baltic Sea, Annika Eriksson by the Sound [Öresund], Annika Lundgren at the Pacific Ocean, Annika Ström by the Åland Sea, Annika Karlsson Rixon herself by the Polar Sea, myself at the conjunction in North of Denmark of the Kattegat and the Skagerrak. The

