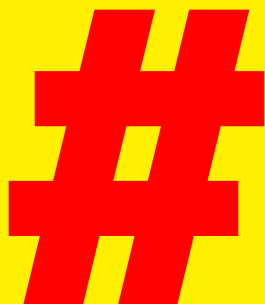


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M



Most often we associate home with something private – a place where we can shut out the outside world and find comfort. Have you considered that there may be much more at stake when we make home?

Housing programs give tips for furnishing; the neighbour notices that the paint is peeling on your front door; the municipality requires you to report a change of address; your new place of residence taxes you differently and gives you access to health services, education and family and friends in new ways; or the state tells you that you cannot stay here at all. And then there are all the emotions! To feel at home or not. Longing for a home. Feeling homesick. Finding home.

Find more information



Consider what boundaries you and others draw around and through your home.

Consider how your gender, nationality, age, and income determine your opportunities to create a home and feel at home.

Consider how your homemaking is conditioned by the society in which you find yourself located.

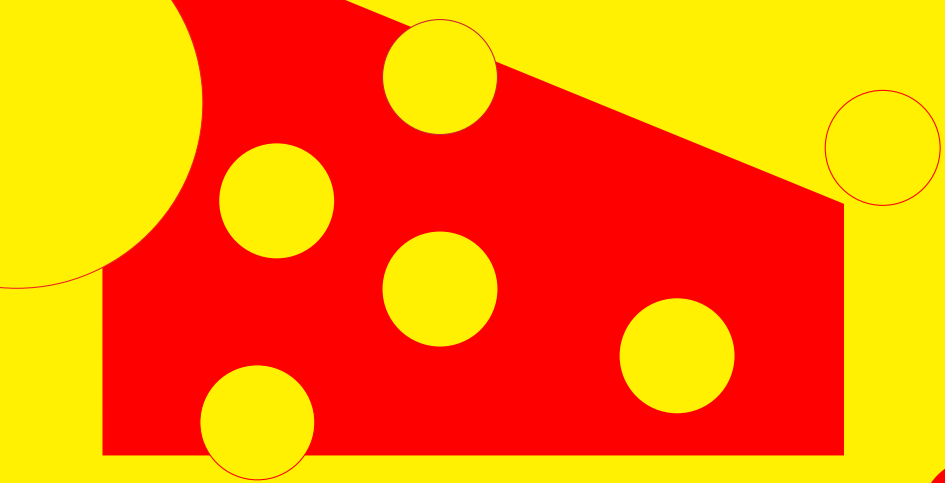
Consider how home and homemaking are a fundamental political struggle for belonging, identity and for the right to be, to feel safe, and to settle down.

In hand, you have a home-activist guidebook that can help you and your allies create new understandings of what it means and takes to find one's way home, make home, and feel at home.

In collaboration with Andromeda 8220 and ActionAid Denmark, this guidebook has been developed and tested as part of the Making it Home project (MaHoMe) 2020-2024 funded by Nordforsk.



DO##HOME



If you think that home and homemaking are important in the work to create **COMFORT, BELONGING AND JUSTICE**, then you can use this guidebook to express your thoughts, experiences, and feelings about making home.

In collaboration with allies, you can help create new and nuanced images of how homes can be created and what is needed so that everyone has equal opportunities to create a home, feel at home and feel safe.

In this guidebook you will find inspiration to do home activism by:

-  allying and teaming up.
-  sharing home experiences with others.
-  visualizing feelings and understandings of homemaking.
-  engaging in public conversation about home.



TAKE ACTION

Home is made, experienced, and felt in many different contexts: On the street and behind the privet hedge, at the boarding school and in the asylum centre, in the block of flats and in the housing community, in the dormitory and on the farm, in the Facebook group and in the shelter.

Together with others, we learn more about home and different conditions for homemaking.



Ally yourself with 3-7 people who are interested in exploring home as an arena to create comfort, belonging and justice:



promise each other confidentiality and respect.



book each other for three meetings 1-2 weeks apart.



commit to sharing your collective work with the public.

Your allies can be friends, neighbours, colleagues, but also people you don't know at all.

TEAM UP

The first time you and your allies meet can be at home in your living room, in a room at work or in a room at the local sports association or community centre.

Reserve 3-5 hours and have tea, coffee, and water ready.

Appoint a moderator who can keep track of time so that all participants get to share and talk.

All participants bring a thing/sound/scent/taste/image or something else that tells a story about their experience of creating home and feeling at home.



1

round: Each participant tells their name and shares what motivates them to participate in this home activism.

2

round: Each participant shares the story behind their “thing” and the other participants witness and explore the story about home.

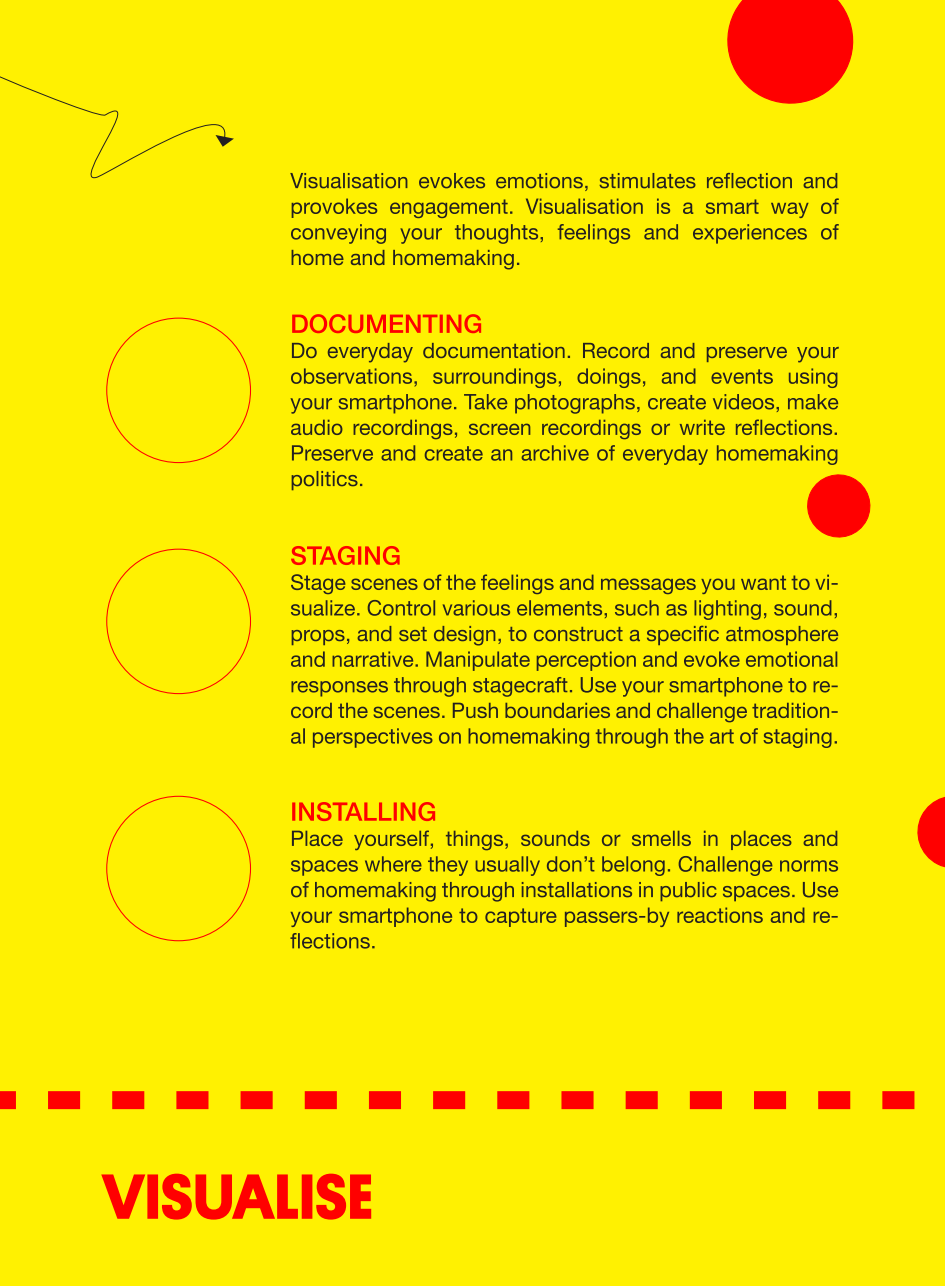
3

round: All participants are tasked with identifying the emotion(s) they individually associate with home.

4

round: Each participant presents their sense of home, and the other participants suggest how the feeling can be visualised.

SHARE AND APPRECIATE



Visualisation evokes emotions, stimulates reflection and provokes engagement. Visualisation is a smart way of conveying your thoughts, feelings and experiences of home and homemaking.

DOCUMENTING

Do everyday documentation. Record and preserve your observations, surroundings, doings, and events using your smartphone. Take photographs, create videos, make audio recordings, screen recordings or write reflections. Preserve and create an archive of everyday homemaking politics.

STAGING

Stage scenes of the feelings and messages you want to visualize. Control various elements, such as lighting, sound, props, and set design, to construct a specific atmosphere and narrative. Manipulate perception and evoke emotional responses through stagecraft. Use your smartphone to record the scenes. Push boundaries and challenge traditional perspectives on homemaking through the art of staging.

INSTALLING

Place yourself, things, sounds or smells in places and spaces where they usually don't belong. Challenge norms of homemaking through installations in public spaces. Use your smartphone to capture passers-by reactions and reflections.

VISUALISE



The second time you and your allies meet, you each bring different visual material and an idea for how this material can be put together in a way that expresses your feelings, thoughts, and experiences of making home.

Reserve 3-5 hours and have tea, coffee, and water ready.

Appoint a moderator who can keep track of time so that all participants get feedback and develop their ideas for visualising feelings, thoughts and experiences of home and home-making.

Each participant presents their material and idea for what kind of story, perspective, or message about homemaking they would like to convey.

The other participants share their interpretations of the material and suggest how the visual presentation can be developed.

DEVELOP

Be open to experimenting with different formats in your editing phase, whether it's video, montage, collage, or performance.

Choose the format that best showcases your vision and utilize your skills to create something evocative. Use suspense, transitions, visual effects, and innovative editing techniques to create a unique and thought-provoking video experience or performance.

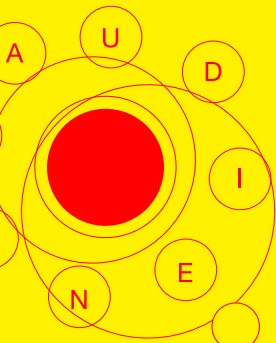
Use your smartphone and find an on-line editing program for free that suits your creative preferences.

Let your creativity flourish, and let the format amplify your message in a powerful way.

Do something that challenges the norms of homemaking and brings forth your statement in a remarkable manner.



EDIT



Your stories and perspectives on home are unique as well as collective. They are therefore worth including in a public conversation about safety, belonging and justice.

Reserve 1.5 hours and prepare a conversation menu based on presentations of your visual productions.

Send out an invitation to a public long-table conversation. Invite people you want to chat with.

Have a screen, projector, and speakers available.

Place a table in the middle with 4-8 chairs around it, and another 25 chairs around the table.

4-8 people start by sitting at the table and participating in the conversation, but all audience members can take a seat at the table. In this way, the conversation becomes inclusive and dynamic. Everyone can leave the table and take a seat among the audience at any time.

The conversation is moderated by general etiquette: You take the floor when others have finished speaking, you laugh with and not at, you accept that silence gives room for reflection.

The conversation opens and does not need to end with agreement or unanimity. The conversation ends when the time is up – and it may continue elsewhere.

GO PUBLIC