

# Maja Karlsson

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*Currently working with sound art, sound design, composing and collaborations with artists. Open for opportunities to do sound work, exhibitions and collaborations.*

## About Maja Karlsson

Since touring the US with the experimental and underground influential music group Yind in 1999, Maja Karlsson has spent 20 years exploring music production and sound design that oscillates between folk ballads, urban techno, poetry and high concept.

Maja Karlsson never went to art school. Her formal education (sociology, gender studies, cultural studies) may very well have a bearing on her creative work but it plays no major part. What is important is rather years of informal practise from producing and writing music, building studios, building stages, touring, writing and performing.

## Musical experience – a selection

### Yind, music group – 1997–2001

Yind started out in Malmö, first under the name Craftworld, and became a household name of the early experimental postrock scene in Sweden. They played their instruments with belts, electric razors, pens and tape recorders and went on two US tours.

### Le Bombe, solo artist – 2001–2006

Growing tired of the elitism of the poetry scene, Maja Karlsson started writing pop songs and burned CD-Rs from home. The albums spread from hand to hand throughout all of Sweden and Le Bombe went on to play Malmö, Gothenburg, Stockholm, Roskilde, Helsinki and Berlin. Writing in her native southern Swedish, Le Bombe preceded the late 00's wave of Swedish indie and electro pop and released approximately 9 full length records.

### Envelopes, music group – 2003–2005

Maja played bass in the French/Swedish pop band Envelopes, formerly The Nicotines and toured France and UK. Envelopes released two albums.

### The Radio Dept. – 2009–2017

Maja worked as a tour musician for Swedish pop band The Radio Dept. on 4 Asian, 3 European and 2 US tours. This is also were Maja started to learn more about live sound production, assisting the tech crew.

MAKEMAKE, solo artist – 2013–present

Inspired by a new wave of Swedish rap Maja started writing hiphop-esque lyrics about a spectrum of transgender experiences. The first mixtape “Mammas Klackar Mixtape” (*Mother’s Heels Mixtape*) was featured in a few magazines and radio shows. Have released two full length albums and two singles.

Style By Magic, solo artist – 2018–present

Techno. Three albums to date.

A Hand In The Darkness, solo artist – 2019–present

A vessel for English translations and interpretations of Maja’s Swedish lyrics, trying to retain images and subject matters to communicate with English speaking queers in other parts of the world. Musically a hotpot of all the genres Maja has been working with throughout the years. One 4 track EP to date.

Collaborations and  
tech work – a selection

Sound installation with Leif Holmstrand and Samuel A D Martín : *Born Without Hands* (Malmö Konsthall, 2019)

Recording for documentary film crew. (Lejoni Production, 2019)

Tech for performance: *Leif Holmstrand and Samuel A D Martín*. (Galleri Thomas Wallner, 2019)

Tech for performance: *Untitled by David Gülich*. (Inkonst, 2018)

Sound piece: *Förmaning* (Reworked reading from Swedish poet Leif Holmstrand, 2017)

Music for film: *Vem ska knulla pappa?* (Lasse Långström, 2017)

Music for radio theatre: *Plint*. (Sveriges Radio Drama, 2016)

Music for theatre: *Dig kan man göra vad man vill med*. (Malmö stadsteater, 2016)

Music for dance performance: *Tvillingskapet – Snoppen blöder*. (Kvalitetsteatern, 2015)

Music for film: *Folkbildningsterror*. (Antiffa Vänsterfitta, 2014)

Music for radio: *Sommar i P1 med Athena Farrokhzad*. (Sveriges radio, 2014)

Other work

Exhibition tech and project coordinator. Malmö Museum, 2009–2015.

Audio/Video coordinator and buyer. Malmö City Library, 2016–present.

Essays published in Swedish publications. (Ottar, Bang, Ful, Fantasin.)

Formal education

Creative Writing. Skurups folkhögskola, 1998–2000.

Bachelor of Social Sciences: Gender Studies, Cultural Studies. Lund University and Malmö University, 2001–2013.