

## **"Spar Nord's Culture Award 24 January 2011**

This year's prizewinner is an immigrant. Love brought her to Mygdal about 15 years ago. From here she has established herself as an artist who has succeeded in drawing attention to her work both nationally and internationally.

The sculptor Marit Benthe Norheim is this year's winner of the Spar Nord Award for Culture. Benthe has, in her many spectacular projects, managed to create awareness. The many rolling angels built out of rubbish bins have rolled through Trafalgar Square in London - in Oslo - in Sæby church and many other places.

The Campingwomen - who have been on a long journey both in Norway as well as in Denmark. The Lady of the Sea in Sæby - the Travellers in Taars - her commission for AVV to name but a few examples. Crucial to the creative process has been Benthe's ability to include children and adults in the process. Some of this she demonstrated when she was the driving force behind the renovation of the animals on Peters Plads in Bjergby.

Benthe's projects show signs of love, poetry, humour, and a certain devil-may-care belief that the idea can be realised.

And I will wager that Benthe will also realise her latest idea, the Life-boats, three female sculptures in cement which will become 12-metre long functioning boats that will sail from Vendsyssel via Copenhagen and out onto the rivers and canals of Europe. You can familiarise yourself with this project by visiting Spar Nord in Østergade where the Life-Boats are on show.

Dear Benthe - a unanimous committee did not take long to decide that you would be this year's award winner."