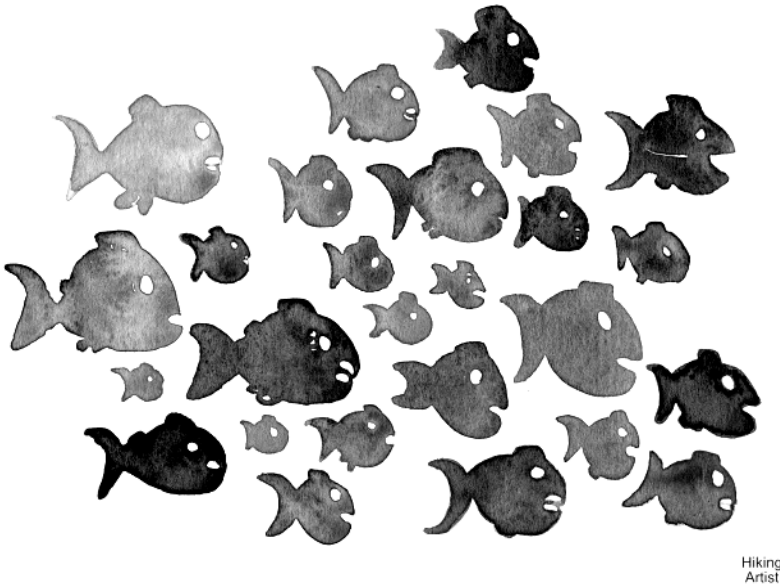


**FRITS AHLEFELDT**, from Copenhagen, Denmark is the featured watercolour artist in this issue.

"I develop ideas, concepts and open projects about thrive, the environment, sustainable living, climate change, ecology, technology and the challenges and trails ahead of us... I work as an idea-brainstormer, visual storyteller and open innovation freak. I do most of my work with thousand year old drawing techniques and timeless tools like brushes, ink, paper and watercolour that I can use both getting ideas indoors and out on the trails.



Hiking  
Artist

*(Fish swimming together in a shoal)*

I've been into hiking since 1987, and have since worked to combine a way to hike, sketch and help to design better ways of relating to nature. The longest trip I've done is the 3,5 month hiking and research trek, through France and Spain, sketching watercolours and taking notes, learning about the different types of dwellings and communities that support the ancient pilgrimage-trail, the Camino to Santiago de Compostela, to get inspiration and new ideas for sustainable community dwellings. The last 10 years I've continued to focus on how we, our trails and places connect and interact, through storytelling, innovation and social activities, and how this can be supported by using digital technology and media.

What I have found is that the way we connect to the landscapes and to each other somehow works after very ancient hardwired patterns, and now the digital technology finds new ways to support and evolve these patterns. And I think maybe this knowledge can help us understand how to get ideas for design and build better and more sustainable societies, communities and relationships... both with each other and with the planet.



I work from a green vision to empower both cities and citizens to find ways to make us all thrive better and to, at the same time, get closer to finding more sustainable ways of living together. When drawing up ideas I use both words and research existing knowledge and concepts, while juggling with classic old-school design sketching techniques, pencils and watercolours. Often I also use ink and metaphors to illustrate the understandings, feelings, roles and challenges ahead – and when possible even to sketch directions, that can get us moving along better trails."

<http://hikingartist.com/>