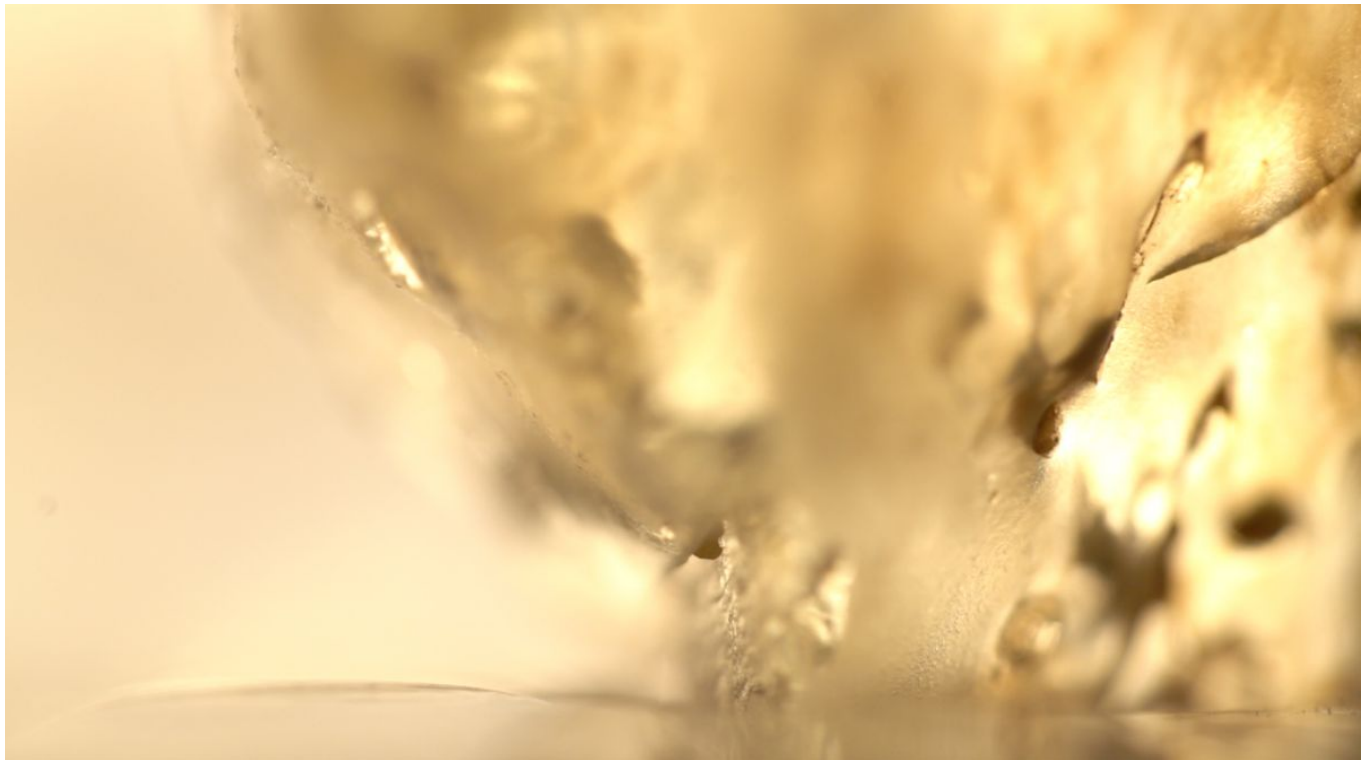


Kunsthall Aarhus

Pressemeddelelse

Press Release

Ursula Nistrup *Cosmic Desert* 22.02.–14.04.2019



Kunsthall Aarhus præsenterer soloudstillingen *Cosmic Desert* af den danske kunster Ursula Nistrup. Udstillingen er en totalinstallation, som gennem et filmværk og en serie af smykkeobjekter skaber en poetisk og spekulativ fortælling om geologiske processer og en fjern fortids gådefulde forekomster i nutiden.

Parallelt med udstillingen i Kunsthall Aarhus viser Nistrup soloudstillingen *From the Pink Sand* på Holstebro

Kunsthall Aarhus presents the solo exhibition *Cosmic Desert* by Danish Artist Ursula Nistrup. The exhibition is a total installation. Through a video work and a series of pieces of jewellery, Nistrup creates a poetic and speculative story about geological processes and the mysterious prevalence of the past in the present.

The exhibition at Kunsthall Aarhus is presented along with Nistrup's solo exhibition *From the Pink Sand* at

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dybe forunderlighed, arters overlevelse og klodens uanede muligheder for liv. Nistrup har sammen med forfatter Ida Marie Hede udarbejdet dramaturgien i det overordnede udstillingsprojekt i form af en poetisk fragmenteret tekst, der binder udstillingerne i Aarhus og Holstebro sammen.

Fernisering 22.02.2019 17–19

Pressebilleder

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Omdrejningspunktet for *Cosmic Desert* er såkaldt libysk ørkenglas, som findes i den vestlige del af Sahara tæt på den libyske grænse. Den særlige glasforekomst er formodentlig opstået ved et meteornedslag for 29 millioner år siden, hvor de høje temperaturer øjeblikkeligt omdannede ørkensand til glas. Videnskabelige undersøgelser af ørkenglassets sammensætning understøtter teorien, men da der ikke er fundet et meteorkrater i området, er ørkenglassets oprindelse fortsat genstand for spekulation. Det er denne uvished og mystik, som er afsæt for Nistrups udstilling.

I filmen *Journey into Deep Materiality* panorerer kameraet langsomt og undersøgende rundt om og ind i et stykke ørkenglas, som på overfladen ligner et dramatisk landskab. Nærbillederne blotlægger også det halv-gennemsigtige materiales indre folder, hvor konturer af krystaller i

exhibitions represent a story about the deep singularity of life, the survival of species and the Earth's many possibilities for life. In collaboration with Author Ida Marie Hede, Nistrup has created the dramaturgy for the exhibitions, a dramaturgy that takes the form of a poetic and fragmented text. This text binds the exhibition at Kunsthall Aarhus and Holstebro Kunstmuseum together.

Opening 22.02.2019 5–7 pm

Press Images

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The focal point of *Cosmic Desert* is the so-called Libyan desert glass, which can be found in the Western part of the Sahara desert close to the border of Libya. This special type of glass is thought to have been created by a meteor strike 29 million years ago, immediately turning sand into glass due to high temperatures. Scientific studies into the composition of the glass supports this theory, yet, since no meteor craters have been found in the area the glass remains an object for speculation. This uncertainty and mysteriousness is the starting point for Nistrup's exhibition.

In the video work *Journey into Deep Materiality*, the camera panorates slowly and curiously around and inside a piece of desert glass, which on the surface resembles a dramatic landscape. The close-ups also reveal the near transparent materials inner structure in which the outlines

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med lydoptagelser fra ørkner i filmens lydspor. Det knitrer, drypper, runger og suser i ørkenglassets univers, som på suggestiv vis skaber en oplevelse af at rejse ind i ørkenglassets dybe geologiske tidshorisont.

Værket *In Praise of the Glass Witnesses* består af en smykke serie i forgyldt sølv med stykker af ørkenglas inkorporeret i sig. Serien er inspireret af myrearten *Cataglyphis*, der lever i Sahara-ørkenen, og er dén dyreart på jorden, som kan overleve de højeste temperaturer. Glasvidnerne i værkets titel er en reference til denne myreart: kunne *Cataglyphis*-myren have overværet og overlevet et potentielt meteornedslag for 29 millioner år siden, hvor ørkensand blev til ørkenglas?

Ursula Nistrup (f. 1974) er uddannet på Glasgow School of Art og California Institute of the Arts. Videoen er skabt i samarbejde med filmfotograf Adam Jandrup og lyd designer Peter Albrechtsen. Smykkeobjekterne er udviklet af Nistrup i samarbejde med den amerikanske smykkedesigner Victoria Mingot. Udstillingen er kurateret af Rebekka Elisabeth Anker-Møller.

a glass organ are mixed with sound records from the desert. In the universe of the desert glass everything crackles, drips, reverberates and murmurs, which in a suggestive way creates an experience of travelling into the deep, geological timeframe of the desert glass.

The artwork *In Praise of the Glass Witnesses* consists of a jewellery series in gilded silver with embedded fragments of desert glass. The series is inspired by the ant species *Cataglyphis* that lives in the Sahara desert. This species of ant is the only animal on Earth who can survive these high temperatures. The glass witnesses in the title is a reference to this ant species: could they have witnessed and survived a potential meteor strike 29 million years ago during which desert sand became desert glass?

Ursula Nistrup (b. 1974) is educated from Glasgow School of Art and California Institute of the Arts. The video is created in collaboration with Film Photographer Adam Jandrup and Sound Designer Peter Albrechtsen. The jewellery is developed by Nistrup in collaboration with American Jewellery Designer Victoria Mingot. The exhibitions are curated by Rebekka Elisabeth Anker-Møller.

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