

Press Release

For a gentle song would not shake us if we had never heard a loud one
Side 1/2

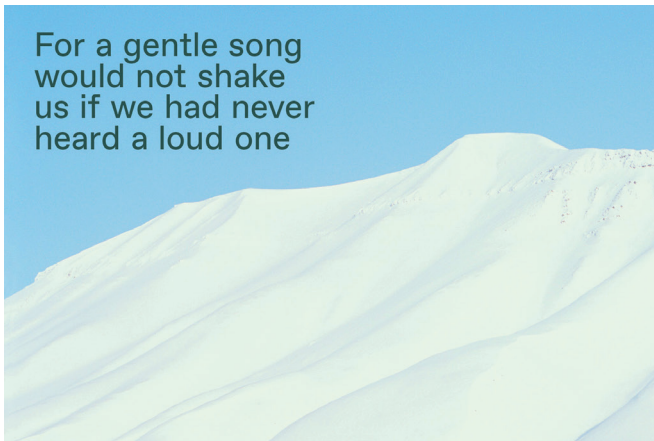


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CENTER

For a gentle song would not shake us if we had never heard a loud one

26 March – 27 May 2018

For a gentle song would not shake us if we had never heard a loud one is a group exhibition about the Arctic featuring eight visual artists.

The participating artists are Katja Aglert (SE), Janet Biggs (US), Tonje Bøe Birkeland (NO), Jacob Kirkegaard (DK), Lasse Lecklin (FI), Ulla Schildt (FI/NO), Helene Sommer (NO) and Mette Tronvoll (NO).

The Arctic region has long been subject of great interest, be it scientifically or artistically. We currently live in the age of the Anthropocene, which is the scientific term for the period in which human activities have begun to have a crucial effect on Earth's ecosystems. In the Arctic region the consequences of climate change are accentuated by the dwindling formations of the ice caps. But the Arctic is also a place of longing, which, with its harsh and beautiful landscapes, nourishes utopian imaginings and motivates daring adventures.

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The exhibition *For a gentle song would not shake us if we had never heard a loud one* positions itself in dialogue with the different narratives, which through time have been told about the Arctic landscape. The aim is a lyrical position, which interweaves diagnostic and analytic narratives about the Nordic region with poetic interpretations, and thus presents new perspectives on the Arctic and on man's attempts to conquer and understand the area.

Among the exhibited works are Lasse Lecklin's series *Covering*, which explores the human attempts to control nature through the, often excessive, objects that have been left behind. What otherwise would be the most exquisite landscape is under human influence turned into an area with dispersed remains from the coal mining period, expeditions, and other human activities. Meanwhile a project like Tonja Bøe Birkeland's *The Characters* challenges narratives about the male Polar explorer by investigating female hero characters, and Janet Biggs' film *Brightness All Around* follows the daily life of a woman miner deep below the ice. Some of the remaining works are more conceptual such as Jacob Kirkegaard's light composition *MELT*, which presents a sensory, auditory alternative to experiencing the Arctic and Ulla Schildt's photographic reinterpretations of ice in *The Northern Journey*. In common for them all is that they question how mankind has perceived and portrayed the Arctic landscape, and how we have viewed ourselves within these narratives.

Visitors will be presented with different perspectives on the Arctic landscapes – especially regarding its myths, challenges, and beauty as a place, which has overwhelmed humanity ever since we first began exploring its cold expanses.

The exhibition is curated by Stephanie von Spreter and is displayed in cooperation with the Photo Gallery in Oslo, where it was on display from 9 September to 23 October 2016 as part of Nordic Photographic Event Oslo, 2016.

In the event of enquiries, interviews etc. please contact Fotografisk Center via 3393 0996 or kurator@fotografiskcenter.dk

Opening hours

Tue. – Fri. 12 – 18, Thu. 12 – 20, Sat. - Sun. 12 - 16

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