



Char Davies. Vertical Tree, *Osmose* (1995). Digital still captured in real-time through HMD (head-mounted display) during live performance of immersive virtual environment, *Osmose*

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Fotografisk Center presents main works by the internationally acclaimed virtual reality pioneer Char Davies

It is with great pleasure that Fotografisk Center presents the exhibition Char Davies: Osmose (1995) Ephémère (1998) with the Canadian artist and pioneer in virtual reality (VR), Char Davies. The immersive virtual artworks Osmose and Ephémère were developed by Davies in the early years of the technology and are considered as the first examples of immersive VR in art and consequently, as landmarks in the history of digital art.

Opening: June 3 5-7pm
Exhibition period: June 4 – August 14 2022

The works *Osmose* and *Ephémère*, created more than 25 years ago, are presented at Fotografisk Center after undergoing a complex restoration to comply with the technological standards of today, but with the aim of keeping the look and feel of the original works.

Total installation and immersive individual journeys

The exhibition takes the form of a total installation, offering interactive and solitary immersive journeys with live audio and video. In *Osmose* and *Ephémère* the audience will be able to explore abstract and luminous

landscapes through breathing and balance. Exploring *Osmose*, it is possible to immerse yourself in numerous worlds ranging from the subterranean realm of roots and rocks to somewhere above the clouds. In *Ephémère* the setting will transform through the various seasons, structured round a semi-transparent forest landscape, with earth and body in flux. For both works, each person who is immersed in them picks their own way, so that no journey is ever the same. It is also possible to experience the works without wearing the VR equipment that allow one to become immersed in the works as the immersive journeys, taking place in real time, can be seen and heard by means of an image and sound projection in the exhibition.

VR as a sensuous medium and an alternative to the material world

Osmose and *Ephémère* are grounded in Davies' close relationship with nature and in her many years of practicing as a painter. From early on Davies experienced the sense of nature disappearing, and it made her realize both the briefness of human life, but also our privilege of even being here. Animated by a deep reverence towards the biological life surrounding us, Davies felt a need to create something that could inspire a new sense of wonder and care. By using VR as a medium, Davies has created a space of experience that might enable others to go beyond their habitual perceptions and explore an alternative to the material world.

The exhibition is supported by the Danish Arts Foundation, The Obel Family Foundation, Augustinus Fonden and Knud Højgaards Fond.

About the artist

Char Davies (b. 1954) is internationally recognized for her pioneering immersive virtual artworks *Osmose* (1995) and *Ephémère* (1998), which have been shown around the world. Davies started out as a painter in the forests of British Columbia, Canada. In the mid 1980's Davies became a founding director of a worldleading 3D software company, Softimage. She first wrote about virtual reality in 1991, and in 2005, she completed a doctorate on immersive virtual space. In 1994, Davies acquired land on a small mountain in southern Quebec, whose forests inspired *Osmose* and *Ephémère*. Davies is a committed conservationist, and she has acquired almost 1500 acres on the mountain, protecting it as a nature reserve. Davies lives in her forest in southern Quebec and in San Francisco.

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Practical information

Given the impossibility of showing the two works at the same time, *Osmose* can be experienced on odd dates and *Ephémère* on even dates. Each work has a duration of 15 minutes. For further information and opening hours please visit www.fotografiskcenter.dk

Event program

As part of the exhibition the following events will be held:

- June 4 1-2pm: Introduction to the exhibition by Colin Griffiths and Glen Fraser from Char Davies' team
- June 9 4.30-6pm: FotoForum: Artist talk with Char Davies and Jakob Kudsk Steensen, ETHOS Lab, IT University of Copenhagen
- June 12 1-2pm: Introduction to the exhibition
- June 19 1-2pm: Introduction to the exhibition
- June 26 1-2pm: Introduction to the exhibition

The artist talk is supported by DJ:Fotograferne and is held in collaboration with ETHOS Lab, IT University of Copenhagen.

Partners

The exhibition is part of a collaboration focusing on new media art with DGI Byen which will show the exhibition *New Worlds Emerge* (June 25 – August 4) in Øksnehallen.

The exhibition and event program is a part of Copenhagen Photo Festival and Art Week 2022.

For interviews or further information please contact Fotografisk Center:
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Press photos can be downloaded here: <https://fotografiskcenter.dk/presse>

In connection with the exhibition Fotografisk Center publishes a catalogue and educational material which can be downloaded here:
<https://fotografiskcenter.dk/undervisningsmateriale> from den June 4.

Exhibition tags: #chardavies #osmose1995 #ephemere1998

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