

By looking up, she is looking down

Astronomy, Astrology, Medicine and Meteorology. Chemistry, Garden art, Alchemy and Genealogy, her family history. Sophie Brahe researched in it all. She was noble woman, born in 1556 or 1559, in the Renaissance - and at a time when women rarely marked themselves as independent individuals and not at all in science. But Sophie Brahe read, wrote and travelled, cultivated gardens, developed herbal medicines, made horoscopes, experimented with chemical processes in her laboratory, and often visited Ven where she helped her brother, Tycho Brahe, with the astronomical observations and records. She became a mother and married twice - her second husband was the alchemist Erik Lange. After living some time in northern Germany, she lived in Helsingør for the last 30 years of her life, and wrote the history of the family in a 900-page book.

We are 8 artists who are interpreting aspects of Sophie Brahe's life, in dialogue with the present, the stories and the places she was associated with. In our two exhibitions at Ven and Elsinore, a big round table is at the focal point - a kind of colchis, which Sophie Brahe called her labs. An experimental workshop where we investigate what happens when narratives about a historical figure is related to our time and is filtered through our individual artistic expressions. Sophie Brahe becomes a prism, a mirror. We look at her from the place where we are, in time and space.

In the renaissance world, heaven and earth was often seen to mirror themselves. The earthly microcosm was reflections of the great macrocosm. By looking up, you looked down, was a saying in these times. We try to do the same; To look up on stars, planets and clouds and look down on plants, lands and families. To look through time and recreate relationships with a specific woman's life, of which we know only a little.

We are "descendants".

The exhibitions at Ven and Elsinore is part of a series. In the autumn 2015 we showed the exhibition "Descendants" in Ikast's Kunstpakhuset. We recreated stories about Johanne Frederikke Rist's life as a pioneer and hermit in the middle of the Jutland heat in the 19th century. And in 2019 we will exhibit at Rønnebæksholm, DK.

Our artistic project is to visualize a number of women we are descendants of. As artists it is central to us to bring new importance to these women and their relationships with the places and landscapes, in which they lived. Because they were pioneers and predecessors, it is natural and also necessary for us to enroll them in our artistic practice and in that way point to the chain of lifestories, we ourselves are part of. In the exhibition group we work together for a long time, visit the specific places, research, meet locally, exchange ideas and develop the works both individually and in cooperation in our respective media over a long period, into, installations, intaglio prints, sculpture, photo, drawing, embroidery, video and performance.

Enjoy the exhibition.

Nina Maria Kleivan, Christina Capetillo, Annette Skov, Pernelle Maegaard, Gerda Thune Andersen, Tine Kjølens, Vibe Bredahl and Charlotte Grum

TINE KJØLSEN

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In a series of original intaglio prints I have worked with visual variations of Stjerneborg on Ven and a selection of the plants Sophia Brahe worked with in her colchis. In some prints the starry sky comes through as an image of one of the pivotal points in her life.

The red color sanguine, is chosen for the plants in order to emphasize their importance in her female

universe. The imagery Sophia Brahe's life offers, is gathered in 6 artist books printed on wendo- and intaglio printing papers. In some places, other historical motives breaks through like mirrors of her life.

PERNELLE MAEGAARD

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Afterfall is the title of my work, it consists of an embroidered "tablecloth" and a book. The book contains Sophie's reflections of her life. It's about astronomical research, medicinal plants, alchemy, and the impossible love. All of it described with embroidery, botany and photography. Based on my subjective interpretation of who Sophie was and who she could have been, if she had lived today. Perhaps she had developed Voyage 1, a space probe. It is currently on its way into interstellar space. Voyage 1 brings with it a slice of gold, with a message to the unknown.

VIBE BREDAHL

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All my little stars. As Above, So Below. Letters, books, ink and magazines. Flasks, collage, and experiments. I leave my laboratory open. I melt, mold and recycle materials. I use gold, sulfur, salt,

meteorites and flour from Ven. Aalandsrot, anise and parsley as Sophie used in her medicines. In the work "All My Little Stars" I experiment with stars of all kinds of earthly materials. For the work "My Heart's Sister" I have produced iron gall ink and written letters and notes to all our sisters, those before us and after us, and in us.

CHRISTINA CAPETILLO

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The moon and the eye - the distant and the near, represents the poles of the beacon Sophie Brahe and are the starting point of my experiments in the photographic laboratory. In a series of images mounted on metal discs, the experience of the proximity of the planet is crossed as we consider planets, stars and other phenomenon in the solar system, with the proximity of distance - the distance that can occur between us as humans when our paths over time distorts and when the dream of gold overshadows the present now.

GERDA THUNE ANDERSEN

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My work covers the armilar - alchemy and ruffs. The armilar is a circular astronomical measuring

instrument that forms the basis of 5 paraphrases, in furniture veneer, brass and aluminum. The golden heart, is a mixture of alchemy, astronomy and astrology, and is an image of the hectic search for gold that raged in the age of Sophia Brahe. The three ruffs are in silk organza, lead and wenchopaper. The paper ruff is printed with texts from Sophie's family book, and the three ruffs represents three important stages in her life. The works have received support from the Velux Foundation and Grosserer L.F.Foghts Fund.

ANNETTE SKOV

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My contribution to the exhibitions is deposits and objects from the two performance walks "We Own The Night" and "Operation Nightlight". At Ven, we spent one night under the moon, as Sophie Brahe did when she delineated space. And in Elsinore, darkness fell as we investigated the disused hospital.

I work with secret walks, gentle interventions, photos and books. My materials are often soil, sand, algae, mussels, heather and weeds. I believe in the power of action. On joint actions. In the memories of the body. And that alchemy can assume many shapes when we release it.

NINA MARIA KLEIVAN

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My Favorite Travel Suit. A travel dress with embroidery, lace and feministic statements.

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Chic travel suitcase in practical lightweight material for the active woman on the go. Fully equipped for both short and long trips.

Do not Waste Your Life. Joint video work by Nina Maria Kleivan and Pernelle Maegaard. A filmed shadowplay from a laboratory where it is being experimented, invented and brewed.

CHARLOTTE GRUM

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Sea Star Assembly 1-4: How To Explain The Universe To A Human? Ven, 2017.

Hand picked starfish - also classified as "Asteroids" because of their starlike form - are invited to discuss an extremely important subject: How the universe can be explained to a human being. To ensure that the subject is discussed in depth, starfish from all corners of Ven will participate. I will act as coordinator and assistant and ensure the participants' working environment.

Becoming An Aries. Helsinor, 2017. Here I will listen to the stars and live in accordance with my zodiac's moon chart.