

KUNSTHAL CHARLOTTENBORG

Press release

Copenhagen, 7 May 2018

Kunsthall Charlottenborg presents the largest monographic exhibition to date starring Denmark's representative at the 2017 Venice Biennale

This summer, Kunsthall Charlottenborg presents the most comprehensive monographic exhibition to date by Danish artist Kirstine Roepstorff. Titled *Renaissance of the Night*, the show will include the artist's central pieces from the 2017 Venice Biennale alongside a large selection of older and entirely new works. Curated by Aukje Lepoutre Ravn the exhibition focuses on the phenomena of darkness, dissolution and transformation, and will be orchestrated as an immersive total installation taking up the entire south wing of Kunsthall Charlottenborg.

Exhibition period: 16 June – 12 August

Official opening: 15 June 6pm–10pm

Press view: 15 June 11am–12.30pm



This summer, Kunsthall Charlottenborg presents *Renaissance of the Night*, the largest-ever and most comprehensive solo presentation of the internationally acclaimed artist Kirstine Roepstorff. As one of the most versatile artists of her generation, Kirstine Roepstorff creates works that equally appeal to our deep aesthetic senses as well as our political, social and existential awareness's.

Renaissance of the Night focuses on darkness and the cultural constructs that surround it. Darkness can be a purely physical phenomenon – an absence of light – but it is also associated with aspects of the human psyche, with sleep, death and the subconscious. It can connote a state of fear and uncertainty, while at the same time it constitutes the universal wellspring of all organic life; the primordial substance from which we all originate from. Based on the thesis that we are now living in a world that is too brightly lit, an overexposed world in which light is lauded as the absolute truth while darkness is associated with the unpleasant and the unknown, Kirstine Roepstorff explores the wider potential of darkness. Can darkness be felt and understood as a kind of dissolving energy, a transformative force rather than the sum of the great unknown that we tend to evade? What happens if we surrender to that darkness?

Orchestrated as a narrative journey from dusk to dawn, the exhibition unfolds as an immersive and ambient spatial installation that encompasses the entire south wing of Kunsthall Charlottenborg. At the heart of the exhibition visitors will find Roepstorff's most recent magnum opus, the spectacular sound and light work *Theatre of Glowing Darkness*, presented here in a new format, as well as the virtuoso tapestry *Renaissance of the Night*, from which the exhibition borrows its title. Featuring approximately 75 works in

total, the exhibition also presents a vast array of newly produced as well as older pieces spanning various media such as painting, collage, relief, mobile and sculpture.

Podcast series on darkness

Focusing on the subject of darkness, the exhibition will be accompanied by a podcast series created in collaboration with Carsten Ortmann, MA in Aesthetics and Culture from Aarhus University and host of the radio broadcast 'Supertanker' on DR P1. Cutting across a wide range of professional fields, the series will feature a selected range of different voices speaking about their relationship with darkness – from a blind boy's sense of light and colour to an acclaimed astrophysicist's defining insights into stardust and its importance to the creation of planets. Leading figures within their fields, such as curator Bonaventure Ndikung, theologian Anders Laugesen, anthropologist Jonas Tinius, theatre director Catherine Poher, neurologist Andreas Roepstorff and astrophysicist Anja C. Andersen, are among the participants. Comprising a total of 20 podcasts in either Danish or English, the series will be available for free streaming and download from 14 June.

Kirstine Roepstorff

Kirstine Roepstorff (b. 1972) is a graduate from the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts (1994-2001) and Rutgers University, Mason School of Fine Art (MFA), USA (2000). Roepstorff has exhibited her work widely internationally and presented solo shows in Denmark and abroad. In recent years, Roepstorff has created several major public art projects and public installations in Denmark, and her works are included in the permanent collection at Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA; The Saatchi Gallery, London, UK; the National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design, Oslo, NO; The National Gallery of Denmark, Copenhagen, DK and others. In 2017 she represented Denmark in the Danish Pavilion at the 57th international art biennale in Venice, presenting the project *influenza. theatre of glowing darkness*.

The exhibition is curated by Aukje Lepoutre Ravn, independent curator, formerly curator at Röda Sten Konsthall in Gothenburg and artistic director of GIBCA-Göteborg International Biennale for Contemporary Art 2015.

The exhibition is supported by Statens Kunstfond, Beckett-Fonden, Aage og Johanne Louis-Hansen Fonden, Oticon Fonden, Knud Højgaards Fond, Spar Nord Fonden, Det Obelske Familiefond and Axel Muusfeldts Fond. Sponsors: Stouenborg, Flügger, Louis Poulsen, Kvadrat.

Facts

Kirstine Roepstorff: *Renaissance of the Night*

16 June – 12 August 2018

Official opening: 15 June 6pm-10pm

Kunsthall Charlottenborg, Nyhavn 2, 1051 Copenhagen K
DKK 75. (Admission to the official opening is free)

[More about the exhibition](#)

Photo credit

Kirstine Roepstorff, *Renaissance of the Night*, 2017. Exhibition view from *influenza. theatre of glowing darkness*, 2017, The Danish Pavilion at the 57th Venice Biennale. Photo: Anders Sune Berg.

Press materials

Press materials, including high-resolution images, can be downloaded from Kunsthall Charlottenborg's website: <https://kunsthallcharlottenborg.dk/en/exhibitions/kirstine-roepstorff/>

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