

Foreword

By Tine Nygaard

With “Sunset Boulevard”, Ruth Campau transforms the central axis of the Bornholm Art Museum into an interpretation of solar cycles and the circle of life as it moves from the coolness of light to the depths of darkness. The work is site-specific and large scale. It comprises a billowing progression of 192.8 metres of soft, painted lengths of Mylar suspended at a height of 8.7 metres above and along the 36-metre-long space. Campau’s other installation, “Night Settings”, is designed for a small, dark room situated along the same axis in the museum but on a lower floor.

Ruth Campau (b. 1955) is a pictorial artist. In 2020, she received the Danish Arts Foundation’s Lifelong Honorary Grant for her persistent, comprehensive and continuously investigative artistic endeavours. Campau has exhibited her works at a wide range of solo and collective exhibitions in Denmark and abroad, and she has developed site-specific works for public spaces and institutions. Her works are exhibited at several museums in Denmark. On multiple occasions, the artist has developed architectural ornamentation in cooperation with architectural firms for newly completed buildings, and she has also curated a number of agenda-setting exhibition projects. In this catalogue, Ruth Campau talks about her works, sources of inspiration and the exhibition itself.

Sunset Boulevard is one several exhibitions that will pave the way for a forthcoming Museum of Light and Art at Bornholm Art Museum. The museum intends to present interdisciplinary exhibitions of international calibre. The point of departure for the exhibitions will always be artists who are devoted to exploring art through light. The perspectives are abundant and exciting. Through this exhibition, focus is brought to bear on daylight. Daylight defines the fundamental living conditions on the Earth: the seasons, biological rhythms, the weather and vegetation. Daylight directly affects our body and mind and has been part of religious thought through the ages.

Astrophysicist Michael Linden-Vørnle saw the origins of life and the birth of a star in Ruth Campau’s exhibition. He talks about his experience of the works in this catalogue.

A guiding principle for the preparatory works for the new museum is to study light across a multidisciplinary field. This finds expression in this catalogue, but it was also communicated at a festival of knowledge at the Bornholm Art Museum on 21 June 2022 in a series of panel discussions and presentations, with the participation of rural dean Johannes Gregers Jensen, meteorologist Jesper Theilgaard, science historian Kristin Hussey, architect Nanet Mathiasen, astrophysicist Michael Linden-Vørnle, art historian Marie Nipper and visual artists Christina Augustesen, Ruth Campau, AVPD and Ann Linn Palm Hansen.

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