

Erik Gustafsson

Color Field

October 4 – October 27 2019

MELK is proud to present the first solo show at MELK by Swedish artist Erik Gustafsson titled *Color Field*.

Gustafsson presents a new series of luminograms, original imprints created by rays of light, exposed directly on to light-sensitive paper in the darkroom. An alternative universe unfolds in which the raw impressions of the photographic process and performativity of light are depicted. The result is a photograph without reference to anything but itself and its coming into being. The luminogram process is as elementary as photography gets, and yet, these works might seem foreign in a photographic context. As such the works raise questions about the nature of the photograph and how it can materialize and operate in the world.

Alongside the luminograms are works created with the use of a camera. The photographs show portraits and places of more or less insignificant importance, fragments of the photographer's life. Pressing the shutter release is just one step in the creation of the work. In the darkroom Gustafsson, turns the space into a camera, continuing to add layers of light during the printmaking process. The flat surface of the paper absorbs these layers and creates an uncertain depth within the image. Every act of added creation demands the destruction of the original photograph and becomes a way to embrace the dual identity of our human nature, both as creator and destroyer.

Through his painterly-like methods and experiments, Gustafsson explores where the limits of photography begin and end, and tries to expand, renew and rethink the modes of photographic understanding. Working with chance and accidents as tools, provides a creative frame insofar as it allows Gustafsson to purposely get lost within the printing process. He refers to Walter Benjamin's quote «to be lost is to be fully present, and to be fully present is to be capable of being in uncertainty and mystery».

Erik Gustafsson (b. 1987) is a photographer and printmaker based in Gothenburg, Sweden. He explores the medium's material possibilities and limitations and also draws upon its related phenomenological questions of being. Since getting his BFA from Valand Academy, he was nominated for the C/O Berlin Talent Award: "New Documentary Strategies" and has participated in numerous exhibitions and international festivals such as Röda Sten Konsthall, Gothenburg (2018), Fotografiska, Stockholm (2018), Athens Photo Festival, Benaki Museum (2018) Galleri Thomassen, Gothenburg (2019), Nordic Light Festival, Kristiansund (2019) and 3:e Våningen, Gothenburg (2019).

List of works

Color Field

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From left:

Untitled I (Folding Series), 2019

155 x 110 cm

Luminogram, unique C-print

22.000 NOK

Intense gaze, 2019

38,5 x 32 cm

Unique silvergelatine print

9.000 NOK

Untitled III (Field Series), 2019

108 x 76 cm

Luminogram, unique C-print

18.000 NOK

Untitled V (Field Series), 2019

108 x 76 cm

Luminogram, unique C-print

18.000 NOK

Untitled IV (Field Series), 2019

108 x 76 cm

Luminogram, unique C-print

18.000 NOK

Untitled, 2019

137 x 107 cm

Archival pigment print, edition of 4 + 1

16.000 NOK

Untitled I (Field Series), 2019

90 x 76 cm

Luminogram, unique C-print

15.000 NOK

Untitled II (Field Series), 2019

90 x 76 cm

Luminogram, unique C-print

15.000 NOK

The Worshiper, 2019

84 x 68 cm

Unique C-print

14.000 NOK

Skog, 2018

60 x 48 cm

Unique C-print

12.000 NOK

Gate to the past, 2019

137 x 107 cm

Archival pigment print, edition of 4 + 1 AP

16.000 NOK

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Untitled V (Field Series), 2019

108 x 76 cm

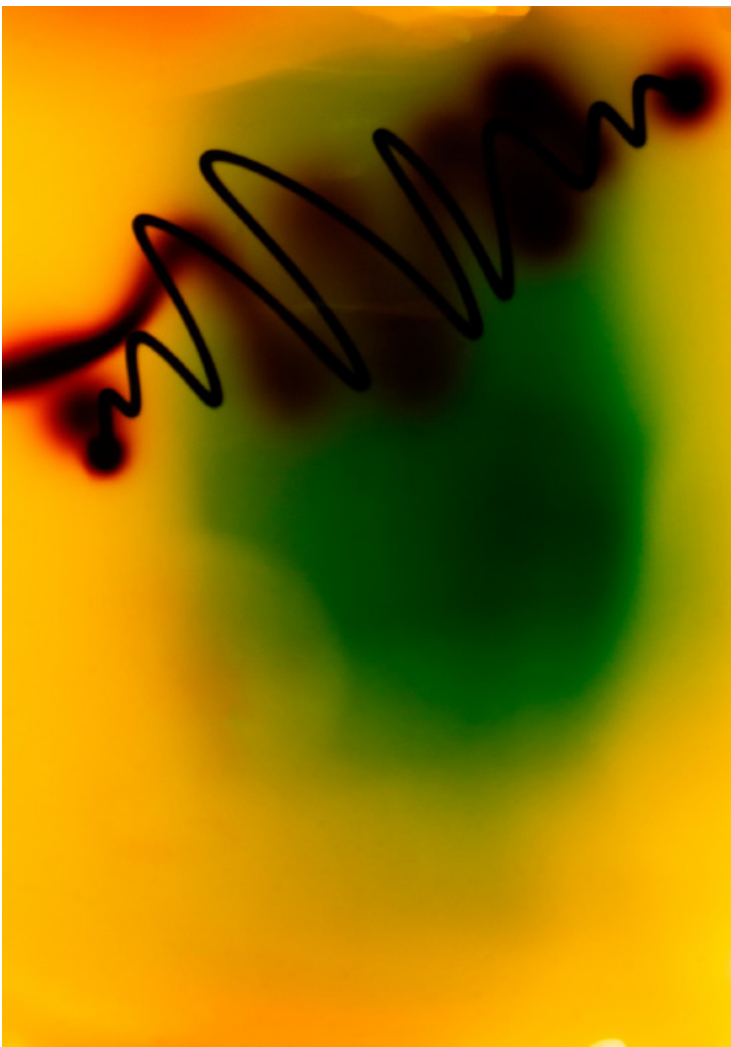
Luminogram, unique C-print

18.000 NOK

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Untitled IV (Field Series), 2019

108 x 76 cm

Luminogram, unique C-print

18.000 NOK

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Untitled, 2019

137 x 107 cm

Archival pigment print, edition of 4 + 1

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Untitled I (Field Series), 2019
90 x 76 cm
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Untitled II (Field Series), 2019

90 x 76 cm

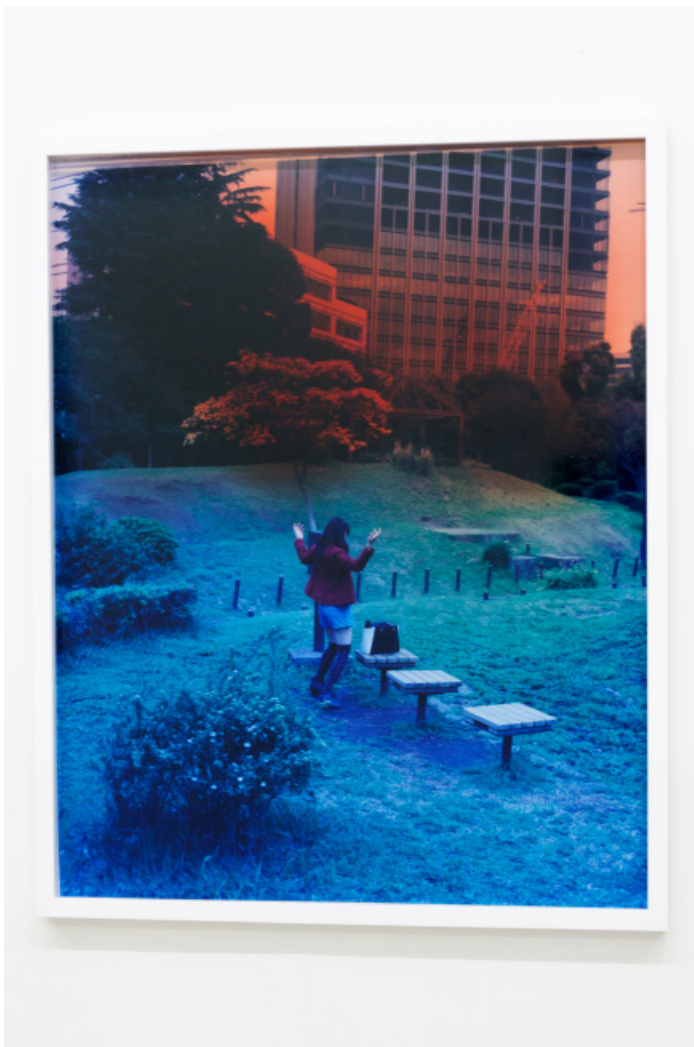
Luminogram, unique C-print

15.000 NOK

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The Worshiper, 2019

84 x 68 cm

Unique C-print

14.000 NOK

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Skog, 2018
60 x 48 cm
Unique C-print
12.000 NOK

Erik Gustafsson

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Gate to the past, 2019

137 x 107 cm

Archival pigment print, edition of 4 + 1 AP

16.000 NOK

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The Self Portrait, 2018

90 x 76 cm

Unique C-print

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Elsa and Harald, 2019

50 x 40 cm

C-print, edition of 4 + 1 AP

12.000 NOK

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A tree, a girl, a door, a decisive moment, 2019

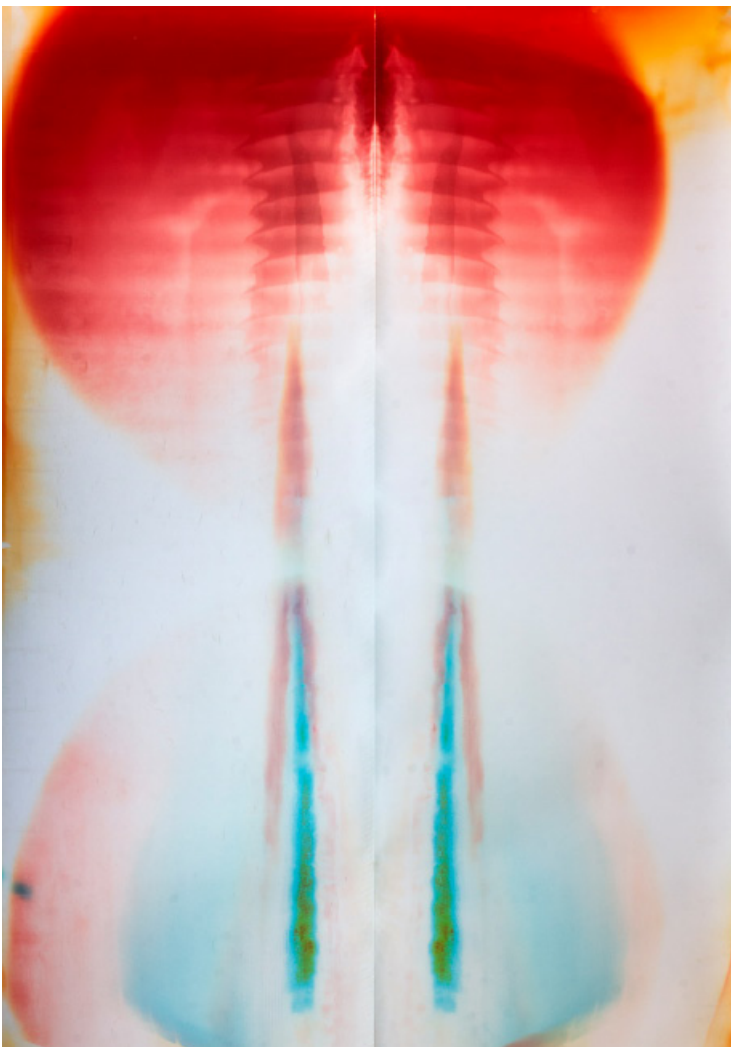
53,5 x 35 cm

Unique C-print

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Untitled IX (Folding Series), 2019
200 x 135 cm
Luminogram, unique C-print