

Thora Dolven Balke

FLOW

September 6–29, 2019

Presenting a new series of works, Thora Dolven Balke's second solo exhibition at MELK is a reflection on bodies in vulnerable situations and the often mundane spaces where major life events unfold. *FLOW* continues Dolven Balke's exploration of the slippage between analogue and digital mediums, presenting original and enlarged polaroid photographs, epoxy resin and silicone cast objects and a video installation, all from 2019.

FLOW imagines the body as a system of open channels that its owner can lose control over in certain singular but commonplace situations, related to sexuality, illness, childbirth and age. Images from intimate domestic scenes are interspersed with hospital interiors and marine animals, alongside a series of tinted fountain heads. These are based on faces found in the gardens of Museu do Açude, in the Tijuca forest in Rio de Janeiro, undated and made by unknown artists. Spending time in the park, Dolven Balke saw an image of this life-flow in the fountain figures, with their gaping mouths relentlessly spilling water. In collaboration with the museum she was able to take moulds of them on site.

The flow is of time through matter, preserved in a variety of materials with different life-spans. Traces of water through stone and copper are captured in resin, while the slow disintegration of a whale's body is made physical by a manipulated TV flat screen, disassembled to expose the fragile technology beneath. A series of silicone objects, with industrial patterns cast from anti-slip mats, allude to the surface of skin. Encasing original polaroid photographs, they are shown alongside enlarged prints that make visible the dust, hairs and organic matter from the scan, sharp against the larger soft motif. The subjects seem to exist in a liquid atmosphere, floating between layers of chemicals and light, stuck in the thickness of an instant.

Thora Dolven Balke lives and works between Oslo and Rio de Janeiro, where she completed the Capacete programme in 2016. Recent solo exhibitions are *FLOW*, Cavalo, Rio de Janeiro (2019); *All that respire, conspires* at UKS, Oslo and *Ultima Festival* (2017); *Von hinten durch die Brust ins Auge* at Kristiansand Kunsthall (2015) - recent group exhibitions and other projects include *Mind moves with matter*, *body blends into space*, Kunsthall Trondheim (2019); *Off the Page*, Bergen Kunsthall (2017); *Slutten*, Kristiansand Kunsthall (2017); *Innland*, Centre Création Contemporaine Olivier Debré, Frankrike (2017) and *The Young Lions*, Preus Fotomuseum, Oslo (2017). Among other curatorial projects, Dolven Balke curated the biennale *Lofoten International Art Festival – LIAF* – with Linn Pedersen in 2011 and co-funded and programmed the artist-run space *REKORD* in Oslo from 2006 to 2010.

The exhibition is supported by Arts Council Norway.

List of works

FLOW

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From left:

O (Green), 2019

65 x 60 x 10 cm
Epoxy resin, pigment
Unique
20.000 NOK

Beast, 2019

105 x 70 x 20 cm
Towels, manipulated tv, plastic cups, cable
4'42 min
Price on request

FLOW series, 2019

35 x 40 cm
Silicone, glass, polaroid photograph
Unique
18.000 NOK

FLOW series, 2019

35 x 40 cm
Silicone, glass, polaroid photograph
Unique
18.000 NOK

O (Orange), 2019

30 x 23 x 16 cm
Epoxy resin, pigment
Unique
18.000 NOK

Pool, 2018

110 x 143 cm
Colour print from original polaroid photograph,
mounted on aluminium
Unique
40.000 NOK

FLOW series, 2019

35 x 40 cm
Silicone, glass, polaroid photograph
Unique
18.000 NOK

O (Blue), 2019

23 x 23 x 10 cm
Epoxy resin, pigment
Unique
16.000 NOK

O (Pink), 2019

30 x 20 x 7 cm
Epoxy resin, pigment
Unique
16.000 NOK

A1, 2019

110 x 143 cm
Colour print from original polaroid photograph,
mounted on aluminium
Unique
40.000 NOK

Backroom:

Untitled, 2018

110 x 143 cm
Colour print from original polaroid photograph,
mounted on aluminium
Unique
40.000 NOK

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O (Green), 2019

65 × 60 × 10 cm

Epoxy resin, pigment

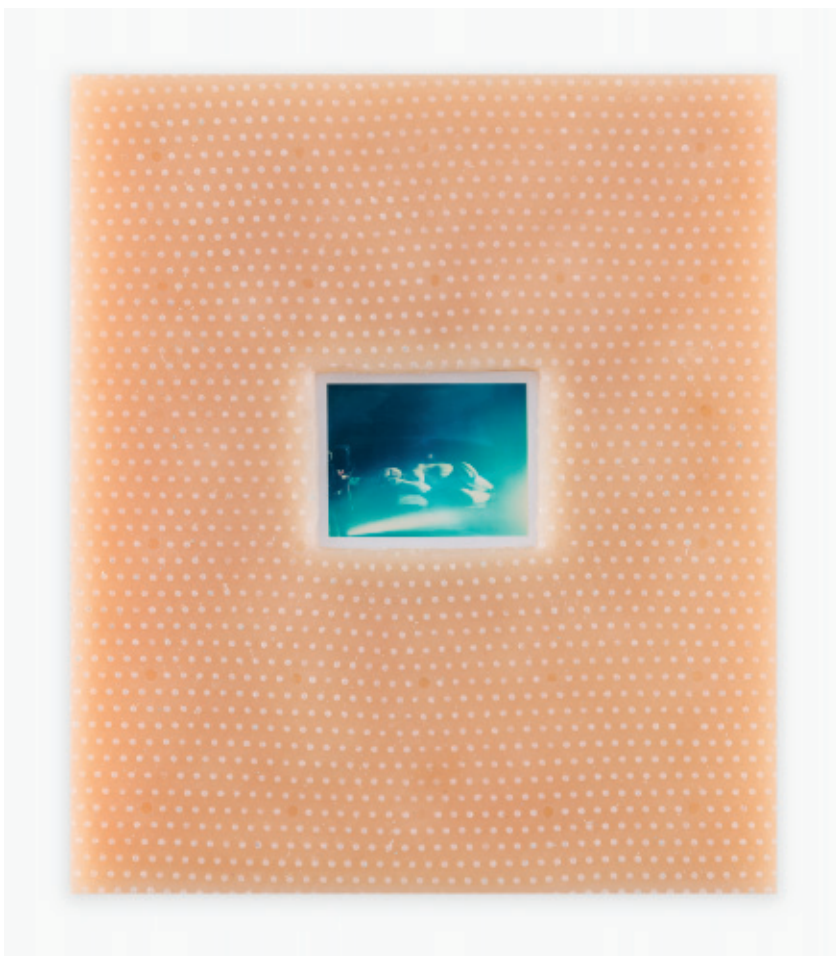
Unique

20.000 NOK

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Silicone, glass, polaroid photograph

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O (Orange), 2019

30 × 23 × 16 cm

Epoxy resin, pigment

Unique

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Thora Dolven Balke

FLOW

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Dependence, 2018

110 x 143 cm

Colour print from original polaroid photograph, mounted on aluminium

Unique

40.000 NOK

Thora Dolven Balke

FLOW

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FLOW series, 2019

35 x 40 cm

Silicone, glass, polaroid photograph

Unique

18.000 NOK

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Epoxy resin, pigment
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16.000 NOK

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FLOW

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O (Pink), 2019
30 × 20 × 7 cm
Epoxy resin, pigment
Unique
16.000 NOK

Thora Dolven Balke

FLOW

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A1, 2018

110 x 143 cm

Colour print from original polaroid photograph, mounted on aluminium

Unique

40.000 NOK

Thora Dolven Balke

FLOW

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Moon, 2018

110 x 143 cm

Colour print from original polaroid photograph, mounted on aluminium

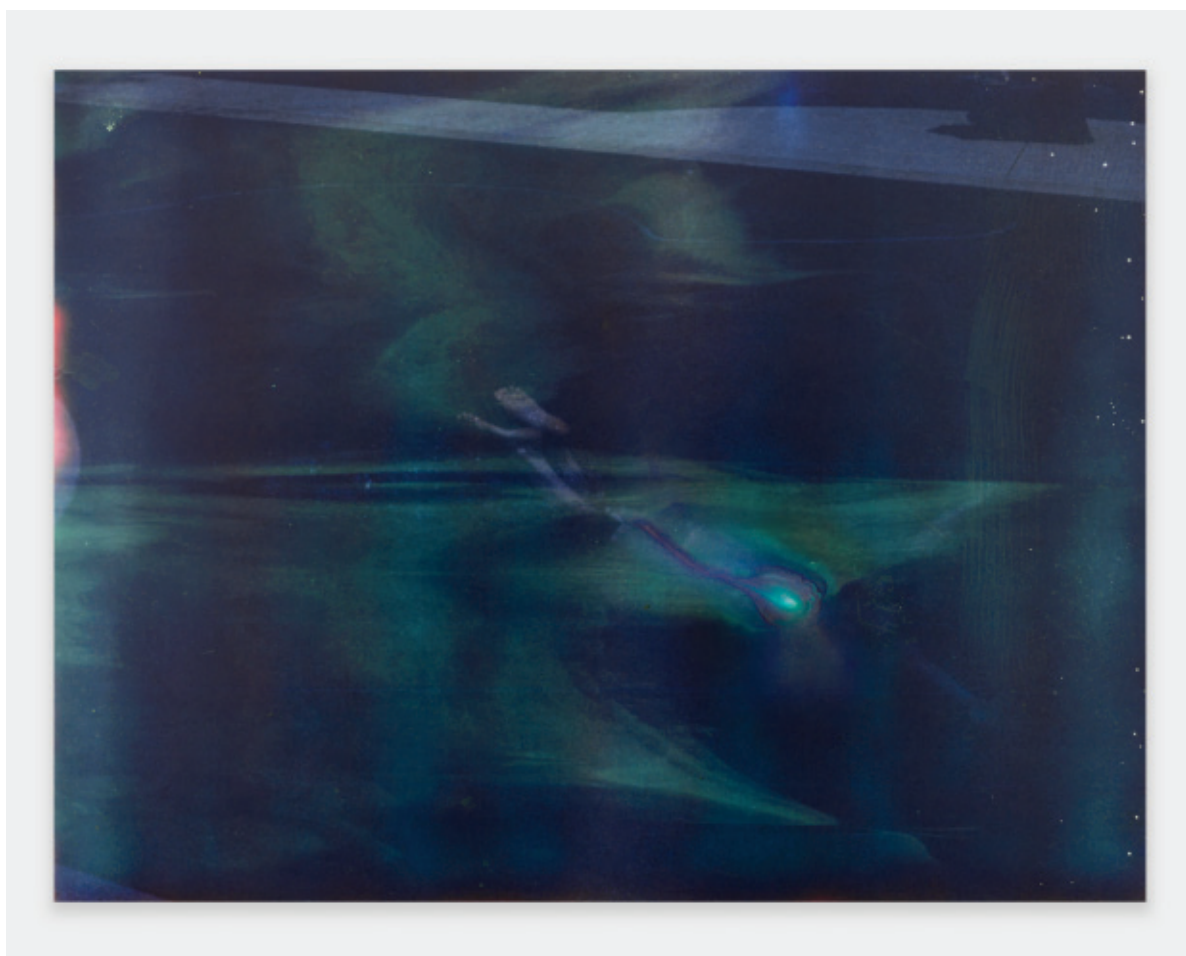
Unique

40.000 NOK

Thora Dolven Balke

FLOW

September 6–29, 2019



Pool, 2018

110 x 143 cm

Colour print from original polaroid photograph, mounted on aluminium

Unique

40.000 NOK