

## Exhibition text

### Mens Vi Venter

Camilla Thorup og Gudrun Hasle

19. august – 24. september 2022

Gallery Lene Bilgrav proudly presents the duo exhibition Mens Vi Venter (While We Wait) with Camilla Thorup and Gudrun Hasle. At the exhibition they will show ceramics, drawings and works on textiles, and a large part of the works are completely new and created for this exhibition. The opening is Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 7pm. The artists will be present, and everyone is welcome.

Our times are disturbing and challenging in many ways. We live in a time marked by war, disease, and the climate crisis, and many of the crises are caused by man himself. At the exhibition Mens Vi Venter (While we wait), Camilla Thorup and Gudrun Hasle focus on the issues that the two artists find urgent and worrying. Among other things, they question why we treat nature the way we do? And they wonder, what kind of world are we passing on to our children? They want to make us stop and reflect on this, and in their own way they use art as a mouthpiece to reach us.

Camilla Thorup often uses animals and people in her works. She portrays them as a kind of stereotypes or archetypes, and her characters refer to all kinds of animals or people. In this exhibition, she works with the relationship between man and nature, and in the works, she tries to dissolve the dichotomy between man and nature by letting them merge. As an example there is a sculpture of a pregnant woman whose long hair almost takes root in the ground. Thorup has also made a drawing of a fern, where the stem is like a face. Her works by Thorup suggest the fact that everything has nature in it, and that nature is a permanent and unstoppable process that is constantly developing, changing and emerging anew. The human being also has nature in him, and we are in no way independent of it. Pandemics and global warming show us this, for example.

Gudrun Hasle often uses her own personal history in her works. Through the works she reveals her concerns to the viewer. And she doesn't put her fingers in between. Hasle's messages are direct and unfiltered. It may seem self-indulgent, but with honesty the parades fall, and we are offered the opportunity to reflect on our own experiences, challenges and concerns. Because that's how life is, and that's what it's like to be human. Many of Hasle's works have embroidered sentences or sewn motifs. There is something fine and in its own way caring in the slow process of embroidering such human and sometimes painful sentences. The spelling mistakes that Hasle makes due to her dyslexia are allowed to be. Therefore, the decoding of the words also sometimes becomes slow.

Camilla Thorup (1976) is educated at the Funen Academy of Arts and the Royal Danish Academy of Arts, where she graduated in 2008. She works with both drawing, painting and ceramics. She has exhibited widely both in Denmark and abroad. Among others she has exhibited at Himmerlands Art Museum and Horsens Art Museum, where she is also represented in the collection. She is also represented in the Kastrupgård Collection, where in 2021 she created a site-specific commission for the museum's sculpture park.

Gudrun Hasle (1979) is educated at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts and the Funen Academy of Fine Arts, where she graduated in 2008. She works with textiles, photography and drawing. She has exhibited widely in Denmark and abroad. Most recently at Copenhagen Contemporary in Copenhagen, the Henry Heerup Museum in Rødovre and in Nordens Hus in the Faroe Islands. Gudrun Hasle is represented at, among others, the Horsens Art Museum, the Statens Museum for Kunst and the National Photo Museum.