



V1 Gallery presents

Philosopher's Mountain

- A solo exhibition by Klara Lilja

V1 GALLERY II

OPENING RECEPTION: FRIDAY MAY 3. 2019. TIME: 17.00 - 21.00

EXHIBITION PERIOD: MAY 4 – JUNE 1. 2019

“You cannot stay on the summit forever; you have to come down again. So why bother in the first place? Just this: What is above knows what is below, but what is below does not know what is above. One climbs, one sees. One descends, one sees no longer, but one has seen.”

- René Daumal, *Mount Analogue* (1952)

Klara Lilja's ceramic sculptures grow, and grow on us, as if relics from a world just beyond the real. Following 1900s ceramist Josep Llorens Artigas' 1079 glazing formulas, the sculptures immediately captivate with their pastel-bright texture- and meticulous glaze work. From this world, a wealth of figures now emerges – planets, cyclopes, chimaeras, fused body parts, lopped off hands and grotesques – beings deriving from dark-fantasy manga novels and the Rosenkretz' esoteric, hermetic philosophy of the 17th century, yet reimagined within a contemporary visuality and episteme.

Defying dualistic oppositions of low/high, visible/invisible, or material/ ideal, the miniature high reliefs recall the mythic *Philosopher's Mountain*, from which we recognize the three cyclopes glazed in yellow (the color of energy), green (the color of growth), and red (the color of love). From their position on the fleshy base, they guide us into a thoroughly defined aesthetic universe. Fabulating, dreamy, yet unsettling and ambiguous.

Klara Lilja (born 1989) lives and works in Copenhagen, Denmark and is currently MFA-student at The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts (graduation 2020). Recent exhibitions include *Dryade* at Politikens Forhal, Copenhagen (2018), *Mountain of Fear* at Ping Pong Rummet, The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen (2018), and the site-related installation *Phlox*, commissioned by Creator Projects, at Kalvebod Brygge, Copenhagen (2018). In December 2018 Trojan Horse Press / V1 Gallery published a magazine with Klara Lilja featuring studio photographs, sketches and an excerpt from Victor Hugo's timelier than ever novel *Notre-Dame de Paris* (1831). *Philosopher's Mountain* is Klara Lilja's second solo exhibition with V1 Gallery.

The accompanying soundscape *Laub* is composed by Anders Hjortdal.