



Multistable Fields

The main building of Lund University was inaugurated in 1882. In the building conceived by architect Helgo Zettervall the rational quest for knowledge of Academia is enmeshed with a world of mythical symbols. Sphinxes and griffins meet deans and professors. Suggestive symbolism and ornamentation inspired by the worlds of classical antiquity meet contemporary rituals and processes.

The exhibition *Multistable Fields* by Robert Willim has been specially made for the atrium of the building. It is based on two works (*In Praise of Other Places* and *Chambers*) which emphasise tensions in the meetings between academic knowledge and the unknown. In these meetings some dimensions merge and generate new knowledge and values, while other dimensions remain estranged. Like in the interpretation of multistable images and fields constant shifts of perspective are required to create meaning and understanding. The work with the exhibition has been guided by thoughts on ethnographic surrealism.

In Praise of Other Places is a series of prints based on altered images extracted from the timeline of the audiovisual performance *Possible Worlds*. The performance was a commissioned work for the Museum of Ethnography in Stockholm in 2014, which has since then led to a number of iterations. The aim was to let the artist examine the ways museums and ethnography take part in the rendition of worlds and how imagination and mediation is in constant interplay. How can

dreamlike fragments of other places be evoked through altered layered compositions? The images in the series consist of interweaved layers that have been transmuted using digital and analogue techniques. Everything from light reflections to the limitations of various file formats have left media-specific traces and influenced the transmutation process, hereby making the interplay between enhancement and distortion intrinsic to the work. One of the images, in which a symmetrical object appears, differs from the others. The object recurs in a number of Willim's works.

The sound installation *Chambers* is based on site-specific sounds, composed to reshape the aural space and to generate a dreamlike ambience. The sound used has been recorded in the atrium as well as in the anechoic chamber, which is part of the Humanities Lab at the university. The sounds recorded in the anechoic chamber stem from the object that appears in one of the images of the exhibition. The sounds have been convolved with reverberation from the King's chamber in the great pyramid at Giza.



Robert Willim (b. 1970) is an Artist and Associate Professor of Ethnology, working at The Department of Arts and Cultural Sciences. In his art he examines and develops concepts that derive from his work as an ethnologist and cultural analyst. His works has been exhibited and shown in several parts of the world, and his recent work has mostly dealt with imaginary places and ethnographic surrealism.



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