

Et in Arcadia ego / Land of the Mountain Trails / Klippestiernes Land Ingrid Borum

Et in Arcadia ego/ Land of the Mountain Trails / is exhibited in the period 05-28 August 2022 / Stadens Museum / Christiania / Opening hours: Tues.- Sun. At 14-19

Background / Expedition to the Hindu Kush / Lennart Edelberg

The works in the exhibition depict altars, self-built houses, bridges and places of worship with the gray rocky landscape as a background. I describe through large paper paintings fragments from my journey through the Land of Rock Paths, on an expedition to an isolated people in the Hindu Kush, the mountain range between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The Land of Mountain Trails appeared as a pastoral Arcadia, where the pure, pre-industrial nature of the valleys has become a prominent element in the display - so prominent that several of the paper works bear the title 'Altar to Spinoza's God'.

The mountain dwellers here were still animists and had been isolated in the impassable mountains since the Indo-European migrations, long before our era. It felt like visiting the Scandinavian Bronze Age. A culture shock and a journey through time.

The works were also initiated by the meeting in 2010 with the book 'Nuristan Buildings' (1984) by Lennart Edelberg, who has done research in the same mountain area.

“The Kafirs, it was believed, had retained ancient cultural traits that could be traced back to the exodus of the Aryan tribes from the Caucasus, long before our era. Thus, their way of life offered a glimpse into the distant European past” Text: Moesgaard Museum

The fact that Edelberg's thorough and construction-technical book has meant a lot to me is also due to some intricacies of circumstances of fate, regarding the (mainly) missing photo documentation of the Borum-Morandi expedition.

Lennart Edelberg's book inspired me to try, in the period 2010-2020, to paint and reproduce the impressions from the journey through Kafiristan and from our lost photos - in the painting series Kafiristan Works, 15 paintings/ format 195x175cm/ Acrylic on canvas 2010-20

Et in Arcadia ego / 'Klippestiernes Land' is an independent reinterpretation and a supplement to this series.

Kalash Kafiristan photographs (1969-70) lent with kind permission by Nini Morelli (Venezia) and Italo Bertolasi (Milano)

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