

LeaVeileby

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8 juli – 27 augusti 2023

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KROGNOSHUSET

MAGNETIC SOAP

As kids, certain books were explored with absolute dazzlement. Figures and texts would set the imagination working: *What fantastic things are possible? What will I become when I grow up?* There would be dreams about atoms and distant galaxies, fascination with diagrams of the human body, and simple, mundane things took on magical qualities in those pages. Case in point: soap.

It was likely an unintentional spill of ash into a container of boiling animal fat that might have accidentally created the primordial soap material, leading humans to observe a kind of white “curd” floating on top of the mixture. We know that at least one such event took place in the city of Babylon around 4 800 years ago, from where we get our earliest record on the technique of bringing about the miracle of saponification. First, ash is gathered and boiled; then, the water retained. Next, the fat is selected, either from animal or plant. Added to the fat is the retained alkaline water, and through the introduction of heat, soap is made. Simultaneously, a mystical phenomenon and a scientific achievement.

Science promises us a logical and consistent world, free from the subjective influences of the observer. But it's between the ineffable and the rational categorization of language, that reality *blooms*. The proper alignment of atoms can create a magnetic field, generating a sphere of attractive and repulsive forces. In a laboratory, a bismuth atom can be transmuted into *pure gold*, but at a production cost much higher than gold. Our human existence can be reduced to physical and chemical processes—*bones* and *hormones*—whereas our essence remains stubbornly incomprehensible by exceeding the sum of all the words in all languages ever created.

One small inconsistency or one tiny little miracle is enough to cause a seemingly logical and robust system to collapse. The observer cannot be entirely eliminated; the Scientist in his white lab coat and the black robed Magician stand back to back and hand in hand. Sometimes we can feel through intuition, despite the presupposed “facts” of the matter, what the *truth* really is – a rock is heavy, air is invisible and occasionally, *soap is magnetic*.

– LealVeileby

Throughout the three floors of Krognoshuset, LealVeileby present a set of works in a variety of media. On the top floors, the photo series *Fig.* recreates situations and draws inspiration from school books on the subject of natural sciences. These photos appear alongside two Popular Science books from the artists' own collection, a Portuguese and Swedish version of the same book originally published in the 70s.

In the basement a vertical video-carousel from the ongoing series *#OculistaOcultista*, loops eclectic everyday life observations captured with a mobile phone. Also downstairs, in the room furthest in, is the soft sculpture *Queer Peyote*, a functional garment tailored to the bodies of the artists facing back to back.

LealVeileby is a Portuguese-Swedish artist duo and couple based in Malmö. Their interdisciplinary practice weaves together everyday life, storytelling, scientific speculation and mysticism through a variety of media, such as video, installation, objects, text, photo, and sound pieces. Their work often intertwines philosophical ideas and biographical elements, drawing from lived experiences such as Leal's background in pharmacy. Both Leal and Veileby hold MFA degrees from Malmö Art Academy. They have had solo exhibitions at, among other places, Galeria Graça Brandão (Portugal), Espaço Campanhã (Portugal), and Skånes Konstförening (Sweden). The duo has participated in numerous group shows throughout Europe and Brazil, most recently being *I staden växer ett fält* at Malmö Konsthall (2022, Sweden). Their work is represented in the collection of the EDP Foundation /MAAT Museum (Portugal).

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2023

Fig. 13, Lambda print, walnut with ebony wax, 54x33 cm,
2023

(1223g + 1389g), books, vitrine, 2023

O grande livro do maravilhoso e do fantástico, Selecções do
Reader's Digest, p.102-103, Lisboa, 1977 & *Otroligt men
sant*, Reader's Digest Det Bästa, p.102-103, Stockholm,
1977

Entrance floor

Fig. 2, Lambda print, untreated maple, 22,5x33 cm, 2023

Fig. 10, Lambda print, untreated maple, 37x60 cm, 2023

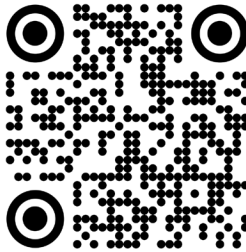
Fig. 11, Lambda print, untreated maple, 37x60 cm, 2023

Lower floor

#OculistaOcultista V, vertical video carousel, 9:16,
HD video, loop, sound, 6:57 min, 2023.

Queer Peyote, fabric, chalk, wood, metal wire, 2023

www.LealVeileby.com



www.instagram.com/lealveileby/



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