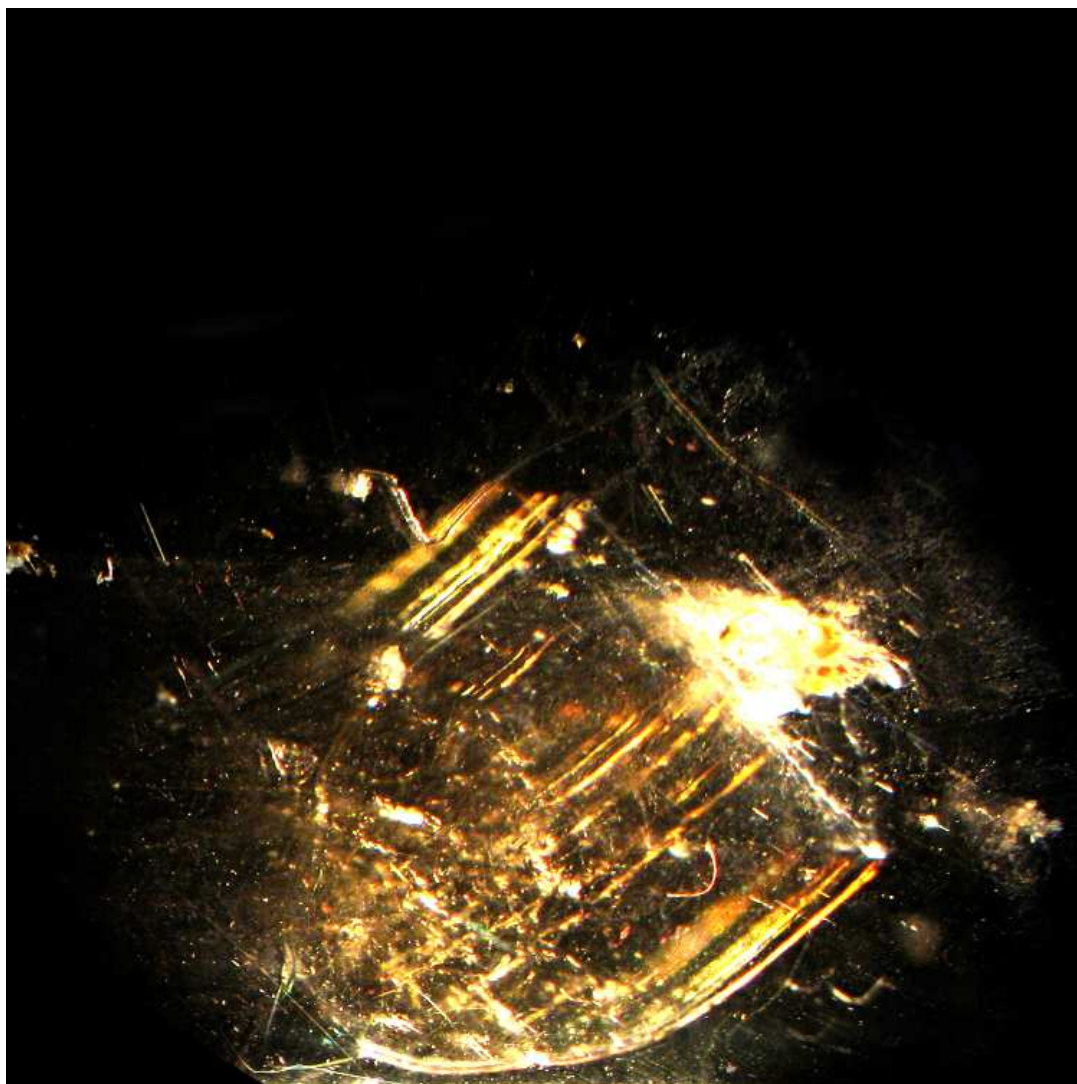


GALERIE  
DEPARDIEU

# HELÉN PETERSEN

SPACE BELOW



VERNISSAGE JEUDI 7 SEPTEMBRE 2023

16H - 21H

EXPOSITION JUSQU'AU 14 OCTOBRE 2023

## HELÉN PETERSEN - SPACE BELOW

Sur fond noir se détache une sphère couleur or et des filaments iridescents.

Là encore, les formes les plus curieuses se dessinent tout en transparence et parfois s'emplissent de couleurs fluorescentes. Si certaines images peuvent évoquer des pierres précieuses, et d'autres des aurores boréales, elles semblent avant tout venir de l'au-delà et être une illustration des surprises que pourrait réserver l'espace.

Helén Petersen nous offre à voir du jamais vu. Ce faisant, elle ouvre en grand la porte de l'imaginaire.

Pourtant, ses images dépeignent le réel - mais à une autre échelle. Il s'agit de plancton observé au microscope et saisi, dans sa beauté comme son étrangeté, par l'œil de la photographe. Parti pris esthétique, elle aura opté de placer les boîtes de Pétri sur fond noir pour mieux souligner les couleurs et les lumières de ces organismes. Reste ensuite à maîtriser la mise au point, et à saisir l'instant alors que s'orchestre sous ses yeux le vivant. Un travail de longue haleine, mené sur plus de 10 ans. Le temps de parfaire la maîtrise technique requise et d'affûter son observation.

« Mes images ne sont pas scientifiques, » précise-t-elle. « Il s'agit avant tout de faire rêver et d'interpeller. »

Alors que les années passent, Helén Petersen aura observé un changement des formes récurrentes. Elle se gardera d'en tirer quelque conclusion mais souligne l'importance du plancton, point de départ de l'activité biologique de la mer, et donc de la vie. Cela ne rend-t-il pas ses images d'autant plus précieuses et uniques?

---

A gold sphere and iridescent filaments stand out against a black background, and here again, the most curious shapes, sometimes filled with fluorescent colours, can be seen. While some of the images may evoke precious stones, and others the aurora borealis, above all they seem to come from beyond and to be an illustration of the surprises that space could hold in store.

Helén Petersen offers us a glimpse of something never seen before. Yet her images depict reality - but on a different scale. It's plankton observed through a stereo-microscope and captured, in all its beauty and strangeness, by the photographer's eye. As an aesthetic decision, she opted to place the Petri dishes on a black background to better highlight the colours and light of these organisms. All that remained was to control the focus and capture the moment as the living organisms orchestrated themselves before her eyes. It's a long-term job, carried out over more than 10 years. Time to perfect her technical skills and hone her observation skills.

"My images are not scientific," she explains. "As the years go by, Helén Petersen will have observed a change in recurring forms. She is careful not to draw any conclusions, but stresses the importance of plankton, the starting point for the biological activity of the sea, and therefore for life. Doesn't this make her images all the more precious and unique?"

### Delphine Dewulf

After working as a journalist, and then a scriptwriter, Delphine Dewulf is a member of the Société Civile des Auteurs Multimédia et de la Société des Auteurs et Compositeurs Dramatiques. Among other things, she leads creative writing workshops. For more than 20 years, she has been using her skills in the media, social entrepreneurship, creativity, film and tourism sectors.

## HELÉN PETERSEN - SPACE BELOW

### Space Below - Artist Statement

Man has always been fascinated by space. For many this means space above, the stellar space. But space is all around us, and it is never empty. We can perceive it as empty but that only goes as far as what our eyes can see.

The series "Space Below" is a result of my ongoing adventures through working as a freelance fieldworker/photographer for the Marine Research Institute of Norway.

Equipped with plankton-net, samplebottle, pipette, stereo-microscope and camera, I am allowed to delve into a different space, a space below; the sea. Taking home live samples of fresh seawater I lose myself to this beautiful world of creatures, often hidden to the naked eye, with all their shapes, colours and methods of movement. These are not images showing them in a scientific way but rather with wonderment to shape, form and life-forms. All images are taken through seawater with the forms moving freely, thus also containing their colouring.

"I feel humble towards these lifeforms, for they will be the last to go."

Helén Petersen

---

L'homme a toujours été fasciné par l'espace. Pour beaucoup, il s'agit de l'espace supérieur, l'espace stellaire. Mais l'espace, tout autour de nous, n'est jamais vide.

Nous pouvons le percevoir comme vide, mais cela ne va pas plus loin que ce que nos yeux peuvent voir.

La série "Space Below" est le résultat de mes aventures permanentes en tant que photographe/travailleur de terrain indépendant pour l'Institut de recherche marine de Norvège.

Équipé d'un filet à plancton, d'une bouteille d'échantillonnage, d'une pipette, d'un stéréomicroscope et d'un appareil photo, je suis autorisé à plonger dans un espace différent, un espace inférieur : la mer.

En ramenant chez moi des échantillons vivants d'eau de mer, je me perds dans ce monde magnifique de créatures, souvent cachées à l'œil nu, avec toutes leurs formes, leurs couleurs et leurs méthodes de mouvement. Toutes les images sont prises à travers l'eau de mer, les formes se déplaçant librement et contenant ainsi leurs couleurs.

"Je me sens humble envers ces formes de vie, car elles seront les dernières à disparaître."

Helén Petersen

## HELÉN PETERSEN

- 2023 "Space Below", Galerie Depardieu, Nice, France, (solo)  
Works of "Space Below" and "Incandescence", Up North Art Society, Bergen, Norway (collective)
- 2020 Space Below, Mia Casa Creative Space, Les Arlesiennes, Arles, France (collective)
- 2018 "Anywhere Was", FIXphotofestival/ LANoble Gallery, London, U.K.  
"Animæ", Perspective Gallery, Evanston, Illinois, U.S.A. #Me Too  
Online exhibition: <https://youtu.be/7GFvwrehjr0?t=278>
- 2018/2017 "Scents of Caramel", Skånevik Fjordhotel, Norway. (duo-show)
- 2016 "Windchimes", De Henehoeve Gallery Heks, Belgium (collective)  
"Windchimes" Galerie Lichtblick, Cologne, Germany. Contemporary Women Photographers
- 2015 "Windchimes" Atelier Cinq, Voies-Off-festival in Arles (collective)
- 2014 "Windchimes" MoMA, Tsereteli Museum of Modern Art, Kolga Tbilisi, Georgia (collective)
- 2013 "Scents of Caramel", Gallery Entre Deux, Tokyo, Japan. (duo-show)  
Works from "Windchimes", Unseen Art Fair, Amsterdam, Holland with LANG Gallery  
«Windchimes», LA NOBLE Gallery, show & Salons, London, U.K.(collective)
- 2009 "Between the Lines", Halsnøy Kloster, Sunnhordland, Norway (solo)

### Autres:

- 2013 Image editor, contributing photographer and co-author for first literary work about Halsnøy Monastery - 850 years, "Halsnøy kloster - til Kongens og Augustins ære". Published November 2013.
- 2009-2012 Institute of marine research (I.M.R./Havforskningsinstituttet.) "Space below" (Ongoing project)  
Image contributions to the film " Fjordens liv" (Life in the fjord") 2012,  
images for various posters and brochures for I.M.R. through the years.
- 2010 Contributing photographer for the book and brochure about Malmanger Prestegard - published 2010
- 2008 Contributing photographer for web and brochure about Steinparken, Rosendal (Rosendal geological park)
- 2008 Contributing photographer for Rosendalsstiftinga, Rosendal

### Representation:

LANG Gallery, London

<https://www.lauraannoble.com/artist#/helen-petersen>

UpNorthArtSociety, Bergen

<https://www.unasbergen.no/>

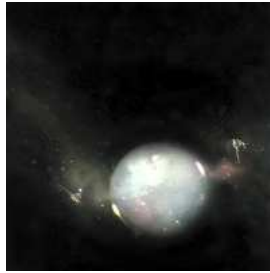
HELÉN PETERSEN - SPACE BELOW - OEUVRES



Space Below #1  
Digital print on  
Dibond alum,  
50 x 50 cm,



Space Below #2  
Digital print on  
Dibond alum,  
50 x 50 cm,



Space Below #3  
Digital print on  
Dibond alum,  
50 x 50 cm,



Space Below #4  
Digital print on  
Dibond alum,  
50 x 50 cm,



Space Below #5  
Digital print on  
Dibond alum,  
30 x 30 cm,



Space Below #6  
Digital print on  
Dibond alum,  
30 x 30 cm,



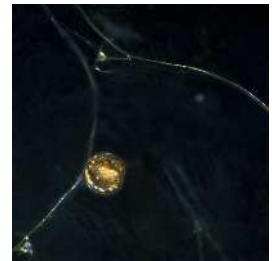
Space Below #7  
Digital print on  
Dibond alum,  
30 x 30 cm,



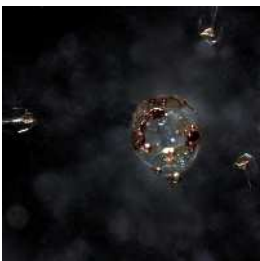
Space Below #8  
Digital print on  
Dibond alum,  
30 x 30 cm,



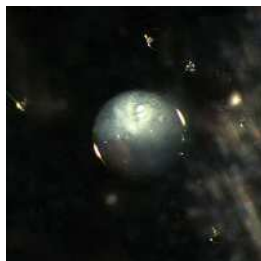
Space Below #9  
Digital print on  
Dibond alum,  
30 x 30 cm,



Space Below #10  
Digital print on  
Dibond alum,  
30 x 30 cm,



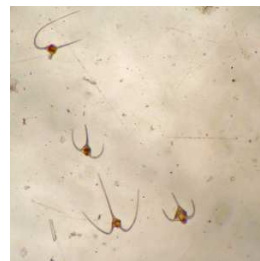
Space Below #11  
Digital print on  
Dibond alum,  
30 x 30 cm,



Space Below #12  
Digital print on  
Dibond alum,  
30 x 30 cm,



Space Below #13  
Digital print on  
Dibond alum,  
30 x 30 cm,



Space Below #14  
Digital print on  
Dibond alum,  
30 x 30 cm,



Space Below #15  
Digital print on  
Dibond alum,  
30 x 30 cm,

HELÉN PETERSEN - SPACE BELOW - OEUVRES



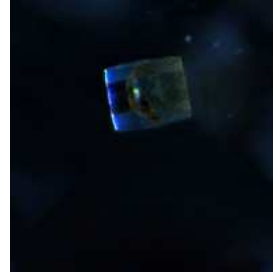
Space Below #16  
Digital print on  
Dibond alum,  
30 x 30 cm,



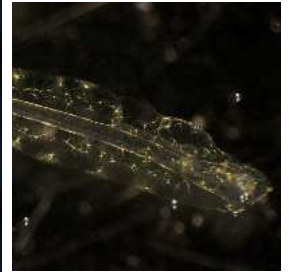
Space Below #17  
Digital print on  
Dibond alum,  
30 x 30 cm,



Space Below #18  
Digital print on  
Dibond alum,  
30 x 30 cm,



Space Below #18  
Digital print on  
Dibond alum,  
30 x 30 cm,



Space Below #18  
Digital print on  
Dibond alum,  
30 x 30 cm,



Space Below #21  
Digital print on  
Dibond alum,  
30 x 30 cm,

## INFORMATIONS PRATIQUES

Galerie Depardieu  
6 rue du docteur Guidoni  
06000 Nice  
France

Tél. 0 966 890 274  
[www.galerie-depardieu.com](http://www.galerie-depardieu.com)  
[galerie.depardieu@orange.fr](mailto:galerie.depardieu@orange.fr)

Lundi au samedi 14h30 - 18h30

