

HELENE SCHMITZ BIO [LONG]

Helene Schmitz is interested in the complicated and sometimes violent relationship between humans and Nature. Through her photography she explores how Nature and its forces are portrayed in science, art and literature. Schmitz draws inspiration from these areas of knowledge and how they influence our understanding of the natural world. Her work often makes us question our preconceptions. A subject she frequently returns to is the fragility of human made constructions in contrast to Time and Nature.

Schmitz was born 1960 in Stockholm, and holds a BA in Film & Art Theory from Stockholm University in Sweden. Cinematography is a major source of inspiration for Schmitz in her exploration of architecture and spatiality. She is interested in spaces as carriers of meaning, memories and references.

Since the early 1990s, Schmitz has realised numerous exhibitions and projects around the world: Scandinavia, Europe, and Japan.

In February 2015, Schmitz had a major survey exhibition *Borderlands* at Dunkers Kulturhus in Helsingborg, where her work from 1996-2015 was shown. Later that same year in November, she opened her first solo show in New York at Turn Gallery. Also in 2015, Schmitz took part in several group exhibitions such as QPN # 19 CHAOS in Nantes, Art'15 in London, *L'arbre, le bois, la Forêt* at Centre d'art Contemporain de Meymac in France.

In 2013 her series *Kudzu Project* was selected as one of three finalists for the *Prix Photo Camera Clara*, an international award for photographers working with large format photography. The same year she presented a solo show at Galerie Maria Lund in Paris. Schmitz has also participated in the large-scale exhibition *Arts and Nature* at Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire in France, 2011.

The project *Sunken Gardens* was shown at Fotografiska in Stockholm 2010. That same year she presented the series *Carnivores* in National Geographic Magazine.

Schmitz's work has also included the production of artist books. The publications *Blow Up* (2003) and *Ur Regnskogens Skugga* (2012) have both been nominated to the prestigious Swedish prize Augustpriset. *Ur Regnskogens Skugga* was awarded the Swedish Publishing-Prize in 2012. Another of Schmitz's books - *Linnaeus and the Dream of Order in Nature* - has been translated into English, French, and Japanese.

In Sweden, Schmitz has been commissioned for a number of public artworks, including an exhibition at Mariatorget subway station in Stockholm, which was shown 2013-2015. In 2015 she was requested to create a series of six stamps for the Swedish Post (PostNord) entitled *Magnolia*.

Schmitz has also held lectures and workshops in photography at Beckmans College of Design, Berghs School of Communication, Fotografiska and Dunkers kulturhus.

Her work is represented in the collections of Moderna Museet in Stockholm, the Public Art Council in Sweden, the Cultural Department of Stockholm County Council, and in several private collections in Sweden and internationally.

Schmitz lives and works in Stockholm.

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