

Tårup Dark Sky Festival

31 August – 03 September 2023 | www.kunstrumfyn.dk

A new Nordic art and science festival on the beautiful island of Funen in Denmark



A unique new festival inspired by the dark night sky, Tårup Dark Sky combines indoor and outdoor art with a diverse science and knowledge programme, creating dialogues between art, science, nature and people.

Organized by Kunstrum Fyn, Tårup Dark Sky (**31 August – 3 September 2023**), is a new Nordic festival celebrating science and art. The programme consists of the group exhibition *The Universe*, open air art projects, concerts, performances, workshops, star walks, lectures, and seminars taking place over 4 days on the island of Funen in Denmark. Visual artists, musicians, and writers from the Nordics gather in Tårup to develop site-specific art projects, in close dialogue with the local environment. Together with Nordic scientists and academics, the festival offers a high-quality interdisciplinary programme aimed at a national and international audience. The artists and researchers will also contribute to special workshops and programmes in art and science for children and young people.

Throughout human history, our ancestors experienced a sky full of twinkling stars – a night sky that inspired science, religion, philosophy, art and literature. The starlit sky has united us with nature and given us new knowledge. The night sky is a projection screen for big questions, existential wonder, dreams and longing. Who are we and where are we going? However, in many places in the world the starry sky is no longer visible to us. In 2016, a study showed that a third of humanity can no longer see the Milky Way, and that as much as 83% of all people live under a "light-polluted" sky.

Tårup in the Nyborg municipality of Funen, is a growing art and culture-oriented village with a focus on inclusive community and sustainable lifestyle. There is no street lighting in Tårup, and the village is proud of its dark night sky. Efforts are being made to have Tårup designated as the Nordic region's second Dark Sky area (<https://www.darksky.org>). The international organization Dark Sky encourages communities, parks and protected areas around the world to preserve and protect dark places through responsible lighting and knowledge dissemination. In the Nordic region, there is currently only one designated Dark Sky area: Møn and Nyord on Zealand. Inspired by Tårup's night sky, Kunstrum Fyn are developing Tårup Dark Sky Festival, a meeting place for the audiences, artists and researchers who are committed to the future of our planet. Tårup Dark Sky Festival aims to inspire future generations to get involved in issues of sustainability, art and science.

Exhibition: The Universe

During the festival, Kunstrum Fyn will exhibit new works by Nordic artists who combine aesthetics, science, abstraction and speculation in order to ask questions related to the mysteries of the universe and connections between humans, nature and cosmos.

Artists:

- Celebrated Norwegian jazz-electronica trumpeteer **Nils Petter Molvær (NO)** will open the festival with a spectacular night performance. At 00:15 on 31st of August, Molvær will play a solo outdoor concert under the Blue Super Moon.
- **Regler (SE/DE/ES/DK/NO)** is an artist group consisting of Anders Bryngelsson (SE) and Mattin (DE/ES), working conceptually with noise and improvisation, based in Berlin and Stockholm. Tårup Dark Sky has invited Regler to produce a new sound performance in collaboration with the artists Andreas Soma (NO/SE) and Irene Gellein (NO/DK).
- **Dane Dodds (ZA)** is a self-taught multidisciplinary artist and filmmaker, born and raised on a farm in the Karoo, South Africa where his debut feature film, *!AITSA* (2023) takes place. *!AITSA* (89 min) is screened daily as part of Tårup Dark Sky's programme.
- **Katrine Ring (DK)** is a Danish DJ and composer. Ring will perform her newest sound piece "Det Blaaner", commissioned this year by The Rued Langgaard Festival in Ribe. It's an interpretation of the classical composer Rued Langgaard and his take on the twilight – in Danish called the blue hour between day and evening.
- Artist **Solveig Lønseth (NO)** presents a new site-specific, sculptural work developed for Tårup Dark Sky. **Lønseth** works with installation, sculpture and photography. Conceptual reflections about sunlight and daylight form the core of her practice.
- *Children of the Sky* is a site-specific outdoor podwalk from **Sans-1 (DK)**. This sound experience revolves around the – to us humans – most important star of them all: the Sun.
- **Matti Aikio (FI)** is a Sámi artist with roots in reindeer herding. Exploring the intersection of modern Western society and indigenous cultures, his work combines moving image, sound, text, and photography. Aikio raises issues about the Sámi truth and reconciliation process, cultural appropriation and Sámi self-determination.
- **Maria Dorothea Schratzenholz (NO)** is a writer and artist inspired by science and science fiction in her artistic process, including post-apocalyptic and utopian themes. Her debut book *Atlaspunkt* is science fiction in the form of poetry, where man is followed from origins through the present to a future on Mars, after evacuating an apocalyptic earth. For Tårup Dark Sky Festival Maria is writing a new poetic text, functioning as a portal into the exhibition *The Universe*.
- Creating site-specific installations that unfold as playful and energetic compositions, **Mads Borre (DK)** is a Danish interdisciplinary artist. Behind his works lie questions about everyday repetitions, queerness, micro- and macrocosmic clashes in relation to the universe, the world and people, language, and the lack of words.

- A visual artist and Ph.D research fellow at KMD in Bergen, Norway, **Sidsel Christensen (NO/DK)** combines new media and installation in her work, expressed through spatial, textual, and performative practices, which create an interactive 'space' between the artist and the audience and give voice to experiences that normally seem unarticulated or invisible.
- Norwegian artist **Kirsti van Hoegge (NO)**, is interested in how stories and narratives shape the understanding of reality, and how art can shake these perceptions. Her latest projects look at how light pollution directly affects us and the wildlife around us.
- Danish artist **Nanna Debois Buhl (DK)** draws connections across time periods and between micro and macro perspectives in her work. Through studies spanning plants and particles, clouds, and computer memory she connects scientific, aesthetic, and speculative to tell counter-histories. From photographs and weavings, to installations, films, and site-specific works, she combines historical and new technologies in a form of 'speculative time travel'.
- **HC Gilje (NO)** moves between installation, experimental video, live performance and set design. For over a decade he has investigated different ways of initiating 'conversations with spaces', transforming spaces using light, projection, sound and motion: ephemeral media that create temporary transformations which influence how we experience them.
- **Sidsel Nørgaard-Nielsen (DK)** is a multi-instrumentalist and composer, with roots in blues, punk, and post-grunge. Based in Tårup, Sidsel has developed a live performance of original music written specially for Tårup Dark Sky, woven with poetry and prose about the darkness of night, the light of day, and human existence in between.

Scientists:

- Greenland's radio-astronomer **Ivalu Barlach Christensen (GL)**, who specialises in investigating the chemistry of the star forming region, Cygnus X, was first inspired by ancient Greenlandic cultures of astronomy and the night sky. Her appearance at Tårup Dark Sky will include lectures, and workshops for kids focusing on radio-astronomy and the making of DIY telescopes.
- **Stardust hunter Jon Larsen (NO)** began his search in 2009, finally identifying the world's first urban micrometeorite in 2015. Since then he has held lectures all over the world, sharing his findings with renowned scientific institutions including NASA. During Tårup Dark Sky Festival he will continue his search for stardust on Fyn.
- Astronomer **Vegard Lundby Rekaa (NO)** has spent his entire career exploring his own and others' questions about our place in space. Vegard is one of the founders of *Bevar Mørket* (Protect the Darkness), a Norwegian organization that works to gather information about light pollution.

- **Asta Mønsted (GL/DK)**, archaeologist and researcher of Greenlandic Inuit architecture and lifestyle, will be sharing the story of the Danish National Museum's excavation of an iron meteorite in Avernersuaq in 2015 and the importance of this material to Inuit people in the 12th century.
- **Plus: Astronomer Tobias Cornelius Hinse (DE/DK), Biologist Morten Fischer Mortensen (DK), Astronomer Lars Occhionero (DK)**

- ENDS-

Editor's notes:

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For further information about Tårup Dark Sky and KUNSTRUM FYN visit: www.kunstrumfyn.dk

About Kunstrum Fyn:

Kunstrum Fyn is an interdisciplinary art space located under the great sky in the village of Tårup on the Danish Island of Funen. With a close connection to its environment Kunstrum Fyn develops Nordic and international exhibitions and projects, creating dialogues between art, science, and nature.

In addition to an ongoing exhibition programme, Kunstrum Fyn organizes the Nordic art and science festival Tårup Dark Sky, taking place for the first time in September 2023. Finding its inspiration in the dark night sky, the festival is divided into three subdivisions: The Universe (2023), Botany (2025) and Under the Earth (2027). Kunstrum Fyn also offers a study-and residency programme for artists and scientists.

Kunstrum Fyn is initiated by **curator Helga-Marie Nordby and visual artist Crispin Gurholt**, who moved to Tårup from Berlin in 2020. Between them, they have extensive international careers within the field of art. At Kunstrum Fyn they seek new ways of producing and presenting art and ideas relating to place, identity, history, development, and sustainability.

Helga-Marie Nordby was educated as an art historian at the University of Oslo and has a Master's in Curating from Goldsmiths College, University of London. Former Director of UKS in Oslo and head of the Art Academy in Tromsø/UiT Norway's Arctic University, she has been Chair of the Lofoten International

Art Festival's (LIAF) advisory board since 2009. She spent four years as an expert in the Nordic Council's art and culture program and was one of two initiators of SALT, a nomadic initiative for art, architecture, and the environment in the Arctic. Nordby has led and curated many art exhibitions, biennales, and festivals in Scandinavia and internationally.

Crispin Gurholt trained as an artist at the Norwegian Academy of Fine Arts in Oslo and at the New York Film School SCE and has a long international career behind him working with installations, photography, video, and painting. He has participated in the Havana Biennale and the Venice Biennale's collateral programme; he has had many solo exhibitions and major projects at Norwegian and Nordic museums and art institutions. He has been presented in international art fairs from Art Copenhagen to Art Cologne, as well as showing his works in Berlin, London, Rome, Turin, Madrid, and Paris, and participated in a number of international art film festivals. He is represented in public and private art collections.



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