

Cecilia Hillstrom Gallery:

Ebba Matz, *8 minutes 20 seconds*
24 August–30 September

Cecilia Hillström Gallery is pleased to present Ebba Matz's second solo exhibition at the gallery.

Matz's aesthetic foundation is that of a clear yet unexpected kind. She is a sculptor and a creator of space, both inner and outer. What we see is not what we get. Or expect. This exhibition is both sculpturally explicit and personal.

Themes of micro and macro perspectives present themselves in various objects. Matz makes us look at what many of us want to avoid. Space and our place in it. An interstellar vertigo seen from different angles. We are luckily glued to this earth by gravity. And the meticulous works are something physical to hold on to, although the viewer is made unsure and somewhat unsettled. A monocular making objects appear smaller: the more we look, the less we see.

The sculpture *8 minutes 20 seconds*, which also lends its name to the exhibition, contains black glass spheres symbolizing the planets and the sun. Here, we as viewers get to look at ourselves from the outside, and see the whole system as if we were somehow the creators of this ungraspable system of space. The title refers to the time, based on the speed of light, it would take us to realize that the sun has shut down. The eeriness always present in the basis of our existence is taken seriously by Matz, she has created a small laboratory, thus constructing a place of intimacy with the vast unknown.

This exhibition makes the gallery a down-scaled model of the universe. Bereft of content: two blank globes except for poetic texts, the words overriding the geology, mind over matter, so to speak.

An external work relating to the exhibition is the large-scale sculpture *Sch, Tyst, Lyssna*, situated outside of the Royal College of Music in Stockholm, a sculpture of sound, though silent. Again, Matz deals with the immaterial in a very physical sense.

The fear of cosmic disasters is evident in the prints depicting broken glass, a representation of the huge meteorite impact which created the lake Siljan 377 million years ago, the prints can be read as means of artistic cognitive behavioural therapy, Matz's childhood fear of another meteorite crashing into the earth approached with the help of exposure. Materia, making the invisible visible.

8 minutes 20 seconds is about recreating systems too extraordinary to grasp, yet giving in to the yearning of understanding our position and the foundation for everything.

Sara Walker, freelance writer