

# LUMEN TRAVO

## Mariëlle Videler Blinded Hunt

### OPENING:

21 October 2017, 17:00 – 19:00

### EXHIBITION:

21 October - 18 November 2017



In her work, as in her daily life, Mariëlle Videler explores a pre-modern conceptual model in which man coexists with animals and nature. In her installations, objects, drawings, videos and performances, Videler is in search of a different way of life, and of a new aesthetic to contest dominant modalities of our culture. Her creative process is inspired by the cultures of indigenous people. The means of existence of these people are connected to the soil; moreover, their entire spiritual, cultural and social identities are intimately entwined with the land. In order to explore this unknown world, Videler travels both physically and in the mind, identifying herself with a traveller. Videler's oeuvre-in-construction interweaves manual labour, rituals and love of nature.

Blinded Hunt is the last element of a trilogy: Blinded Tourist – Blinded Resident – Blinded Hunt. It is a project about hunting, seen as a cultural tradition, an olden instinct, a way of perceiving nature and the environment. It is a discovery of the small village of Uummannaq (Greenland) where Videler travelled blinded, as she did travelling to Tamdaght (Morocco) in 2014, in Blinded Resident. Thinking about the eye is the conceptual departure for the trilogy, which started in

2010. The eye can be seen as the starting point and ending of life, as a window of the soul, as an opening of the imagination. In some Inuit traditions, it is believed that an animal gives permission to the hunter to be killed, through the eye. Not to be seen; to be seen; to see, to transform. According to Videler, travelling blinded opens the mind to a different experience; it changed her perspective towards the indigenous cultures she is approaching, it creates a new balance between the senses, and it stimulates the imaginative power. It is discovering new land without seeing, reconnecting with the non-human environment. The blindfolded glasses were taken off only rarely, opening up for individuals and their stories, patterns of arts and crafts, making sketches.

As a point of departure for the project Blinded Hunt, Videler related bodily to her subject, hunting with a hunter to the woods of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, in northeast Germany. Directly after her travels to Uummannaq, Greenland, she worked in the Dutch countryside, in the guest studio of KiK, Kolderveen.

The new installation, now presented at Lumen Travo gallery, consists of wood, textile, embroidery, 24 drawings and glass. Accompanied by two drawings, two objects, two photos, a letter "Dear Hunter", and a postcard with a self-written myth. The installation is a tribute to the Inuit and especially to the work of female artists Jessie Oonark and Annie Pootoogook.