



NEW RELEASE

## Elina Brotherus Seabound A Logbook

Texts by Elina Brotherus, Nicolai Tangen, Timo Valjakka  
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**New body of work by one of Finland's most prominent contemporary photo artists**

Sørlandet, »the Southland«, is the southernmost tip of Norway. Some call it the »Norwegian Riviera«. Going north, the rocky archipelago soon gives way to granitic mountains and mountain valleys. Yet, the sea is never far – Norway has the longest coastline in Europe.

From the text by **Timo Valjakka**:

*The cornerstones of Elina Brotherus' art include the innumerable, always new, yet never random ways in which a human being, a place and a time – the moment the picture was taken – can be engaged. When, as she travels the world, she finds a place that interests her, she begins to look for ways in which the place and the figure can shed light on each other in a manner that is exciting and thought-provoking. As her production up to now tells us, each of these places is unique, and the ideas and associations that they spark in her mind sometimes differ greatly. Virtually the only thing that endures in her art is that she herself is the sole figure that appears in her works, and that rule, too, is not without its exceptions. Seabound is a series of photographs that Brotherus made in the area surrounding Norway's southernmost city of Kristiansand in 2018–19.*

*The title of the series refers to the way that the sea is present everywhere in Norway. The country's ragged coastline typically also has long fjords winding between mountains, which, aided by reflections of the light and by winds redolent of salt and seaweed, allow the sea to reach places from where it cannot be seen. Norway's coast is the longest in the world, more than a hundred thousand kilometres. Unravelling it would reach two and a half times around the Earth.*

**Elina Brotherus'** (b. 1972 in Helsinki) photographic practice is based on making visual discoveries. When she finds a place that pleases her, she starts to play with the human figure, trying to incorporate it in the image in an intriguing way. Brotherus has a habit of using art history, and in Sørlandets Kunstmuseum's collection she found entry points for this new body of work: some pieces are based on 19th century Romantic paintings, yet others on performative scores, i.e. by Yoko Ono, Geoffrey Hendricks, VALIE EXPORT, John Baldessari, or the Norwegian performance artist Kurt Johannessen. *Seabound* is her eleventh monograph.

### Exhibitions (Selection)

*The New Beauty, Highlights from the Nicolai Tangen Collection*, Hämeenlinna Art Museum, Finland, 12.05.–17.10.2021

*Made on Föhr*, Museum Kunst der Westküste, Alkersum, Föhr, Germany, 28.02.–05.12.2021

*Mother! / Mutter!*, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, Denmark, 21.04.–29.08.2021  
Kunsthalle Mannheim, Mannheim, Germany  
01.10.2021–06.02.2022

*On Celestial Bodies*, Arter, Istanbul, 10.09.2020–25.07.2021

*New Perspectives Through Photography – 25 Years of the Helsinki School*, Kunsthalle Helsinki, Finland, 11.09.–31.10.2021

*Matter of Fact, Voisins de campagne #2*, Galerie Duchamp, Yvetôt, France, 19.06.–19.09.2021

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## Press images



01 Morgen i Ny-Hellesund, 2018. After Amaldus Nielsen, Morgen i Ny-Hellesund, 1881, Sørlandets Kunstmuseum, Kristiansand  
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02 Setesdal Célfie, 2019  
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03 Kunstsilo, 2018  
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04 Landscape from Setesdal, 2019  
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05 Landscape Chair, 2018  
After Geoffrey Hendricks, Landscape Chair, 1964  
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06 Watching the Sea through Different Windows (Hopper Bedroom), 2019  
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07 Lighthouse (Day), 2019  
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08 Portrait Series (Boats), 2019. After John Baldessari, Portrait Series, 1974  
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09 Lighthouse Diptych, 2019  
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10 Watching Amaldus Nielsen, 2019. With the original painting by Amaldus Nielsen, Morgen i Ny-Hellesund, 1881, Sørlandets Kunstmuseum, Kristiansand. © Elina Brotherus / VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn



11 Snowball Pile, 2019  
After Kurt Johannessen, Zeth, performance, 1993  
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12 Seabound Two Nights in a Row, 2018  
After Kunst Johannessen, Havbunnen to netter på rad, from Sniglebjeff og andre måneferder, 1988 © Elina Brotherus / VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn