



NEW RELEASE KEHRER VERLAG

## Lene Marie Fossen *The Gatekeeper*

Edited by Ilgin Deniz Akseloğlu, Ellen K Willas  
 Texts by Ilgin Deniz Akseloğlu, Arno Rafael Minkkinen,  
 Margreth Olin, Kelsey Osgood  
 Designed by João Linneu  
 Cloth hardcover with silver silkscreen print, Japanese binding  
 24 x 29 cm  
 138 pages, including 2 altar folds and fold-out pages  
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 English  
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### Norwegian photo-artist Lene Marie Fossen and her life with anorexia

Norwegian Lene Marie Fossen wanted to stop time when she was ten years old. She rejected the linear progression of time that forced her to go through puberty and stopped eating in order not to grow up. Fossen chose to be open about her disease and found her means of expression in photography. Her self-portraits bear witness to an inner conflict; both cruel and beautiful.

Lene Marie Fossen was only 33 years old when she passed away on October 22, 2019. Her biggest wish was that her work was shared with as many as possible.

*The Gatekeeper* pays tribute to Fossen as an artist and at the same time reveals the difficult path she chose, to give voice to the seriousness of this fatal condition. Today, anorexia is the most deadly psychiatric disease.

The book includes an essay by curator Ilgin Deniz Akseloğlu which contextualises the title *The Gatekeeper*, followed by a letter to Lene Marie Fossen by someone who never actually met her: Arno Rafael Minkkinen – a Finnish-American photographer who has created self-portraits in nature and urban landscapes for more than 50 years.

Margreth Olin, who followed Lene Marie for years for the production of the documentary film *Self Portrait*, has written the essay *Opening from Within*.

Kelsey Osgood, the author of *How to Disappear Completely – on Modern Anorexia*, has contributed the text *Those Who Stay and Those Who Leave*.

Ellen K Willas, co-editor of the book and producer of the exhibition, has dedicated her postface to the remembrance of Lene Marie.

*»Artists surely respond to the time they live in, in their own ways, but their work does not usually fit in the frames of a linear historiography. Therefore, right now, shortly after Fossen's death, trying to develop an overall review of her art seems to be futile, as it is a young artist in question, who left behind a monographic documentary film and thousands of photographs. Consequently, this book constitutes only an inceptive reflection on the life and art of Lene Marie Fossen.*

*The exhibition and accompanying book, The Gatekeeper, shows the dwelling in the passageway between the bewilderments of a self-reflective mind and the possibilities of being beyond time, the transcendence. Fossen manifests herself as a self-portraitist searching for ways of uniting these two distinct realms.*

– from the text by Ilgin Deniz Akseloğlu

### Exhibition

*The Gatekeeper* (curated by Ilgin Deniz Akseloğlu and produced by WILLAS contemporary)

Shoot Gallery, Oslo, Norway, 17.01. – 01.02.2020

### Documentary Film

The book and exhibition are released in conjunction with the documentary film *Self Portrait*, produced by Margreth Olin, Katja Høgseth and Espen Wallin. The film is a co-production between Speranza Films and ARTE, and will be screened in cinemas in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, France and Germany premiering in January 2020. Susanne Sundfør produced the music.

[www.lenemarfossen.com](http://www.lenemarfossen.com)

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