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 Ilgın 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.

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