

SHADOW WITHIN

2010-2013

28 in. x 43 in. Edition 6

47 in. x 59 in. Edition 3

Printed on Canson Platinè fiber and archival ink.

CHRISTIAN HOUGE

BACKGROUND

«SHADOW WITHIN» explores Man`s relation to the wolf, and ultimately, to Himself.

In this photographic project, I invite the viewer to look at raw nature and the purity which the wolf represents, and how this reflects in the condition of Man.

I wish to explore deeper into the viewers psyche and their own references, to explore what they can learn of their own shadow sides and natural instincts. These being fear, aggression, hierarchy, sexuality and loneliness to name a few.

The concept also explores how instinct in Man transgress culture in many ways.

Through gradually getting to know the individual wolves and their personalities, with an astounding similarity to humans, I was forced to search myself and my own shadow sides to make this series true. In this, I see myself in all of the images and situations shown.

As the concept grew, I spent time with different wolf packs, gaining a strong sense of trust, which is the key in the dynamics between Man and animal. I needed to let go of all preconceptions and control. We as Humans are compelled to try to harness, control and systemize Nature to feel dominant and safe.

It was not until Man acquired livestock and fences, that the wolf became the ultimate threat. Can this tell us something about a larger picture in our own relationship with nature and culture?

The primal instinct within us, which we are born with, is often subdued by culture, but is still very much present in our daily lives. Like the wolf, we have strong social structures and base much of our lives upon fear, and body language tends to be emphasized over speech.

In the constant stream of information we live in, nothing is remains hidden and unfamiliar. Yet the experience of entering the wolf`s territory demands what Einstein praised as the zenith of life, the mysterious.

Misperceptions of the wolf from our early childhood has transformed this animal into a a devil`s beast in our minds. A human has not been reported killed by a wolf in the wild since 1843, yet we are terrified of the gaze, the howl, the flock and the jaws of this revered creature.

The relationship between nature and culture has played an important role in art throughout the centuries. In SHADOW WITHIN i wish to explore the idea that both nature and culture are synthezised within us.

Many of the images become unassailable. The instinct of the viewer will automatically and naturally interpret the body language and eyes of the wolf. Viewers may interpret these situations differently according to their own personal associations.



UNTITLED 22
USA 2011



UNTITLED 21
USA 2011



UNTITLED 21
USA 2011



UNTITLED 9
Norway 2012



UNTITLED 13
Norway 2012



UNTITLED 11
Norway 2011



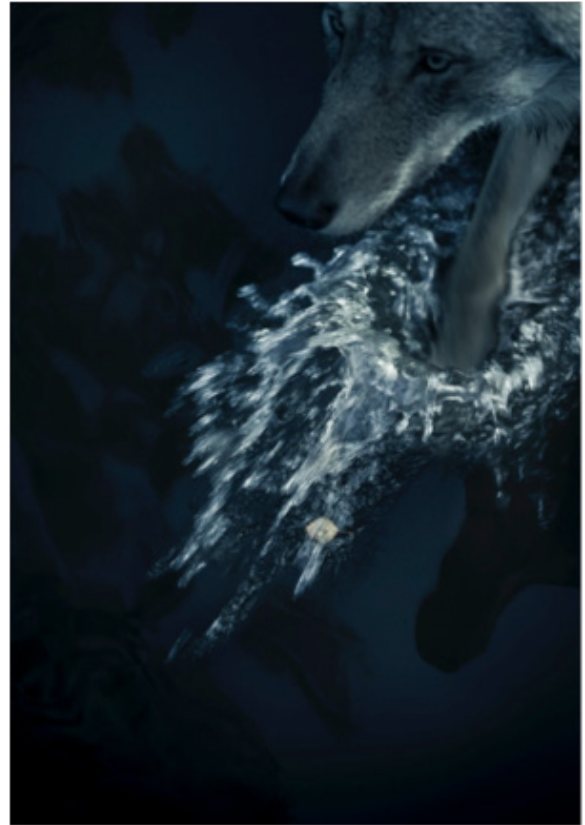
UNTITLED 17
Norway 2012



UNTITLED 16
Norway 2012



UNTITLED 5
Norway 2010



UNTITLED 14
Norway 2010



UNTITLED 10
Norway 2012



UNTITLED 3
Norway 2011



UNTITLED 20
Norway 2010



UNTITLED 15
Norway 2011



UNTITLED 12
Norway 2010



UNTITLED 4
Norway 2012

RELEVANT CV AND LINKS FOR
SHADOW WITHIN
2010-2013

2014

- `Beyond Earth' Art. Johnson Museum Exhibition + artist talk
- LIFF (Lofoten International Fotofestival)
Shadow Within w/speaking

2013

- Hosfelt Gallery, San.Fran. USA.
Accompanied by 'Call of the wild'. Joseph Beuys, Ed Ruscha, Patricia Piccinini and Alan Rath,
- Erlik Kjærlighet/Blomqvist, Kunstnernes Hus, Oslo. collaborative

2012

- Artist talk, Ambassadors residence, London