

Henrik Håkansson

BLINDED BY THE LIGHT

29 October 2019 – 02 May 2020

Galleria Franco Noero is pleased to announce *BLINDED BY THE LIGHT*, the fifth solo exhibition by Henrik Håkansson in Torino, hosted in the In Residence spaces of the gallery in Via Mottalciata.

Henrik Håkansson records fragments of natural cycles and recreates them in exhibition contexts, encouraging humans to become more receptive to the various living beings that coexist in their environments. Engaging with a vast array of species, and often working site-specifically, Håkansson consistently utilises scientific apparatus—surveillance cameras, recording devices, and computer programs which analyse acoustic and motor activity—resulting in artworks which are simultaneously research experiments.

BLINDED BY THE LIGHT, is a new film commissioned by the Taipei Biennial 2018 and produced in collaboration with the Low Altitude Experimental Station of Taiwan's Endemic Species Research Institute in Wushinkeng, 2 hours' drive from Taipei. The site is one of three Experimental Stations, at low, medium and high altitudes, whose vast cooperative conservation programmes aim to preserve all endemic organisms in Taiwan.

For the duration of 2018 Håkansson studied Taiwanese moths, which comprise just over 4,000 known species, including the Atlas Moth—the largest moth or butterfly in the world, with a wingspan reaching 30 centimeters. In Wushinkeng, the artist worked with local moth expert Hsu Huan Chih to attract these night-flying insects into a makeshift open-air theatre set. Drawn in using mercury lights, these insect-actors are covertly filmed against a white backdrop, appearing like shadow puppets; this midnight play is set to a sharp soundscape of bat ultrasound signals, which the artist has transformed into audible frequencies.

The video installation, *BLINDED BY THE LIGHT* was part of the 11th Taipei Biennale, *Post-Nature — A Museum as an Ecosystem*, curated by Francesco Manacorda and Mali Wu.

Henrik Håkansson (Helsingborg, 1968) lives and works in Falkenberg, Sweden and Berlin, Germany. His work has been part of solo and group exhibitions, including: 'Henrik Håkansson. One Hundred and One Pieces of a Tree (Norwegian Woods)', KODE, Bergen, Norway (2019); 'Fragmented Realities', Konsthallen Gothenburg, Gothenburg, Sweden (2019); 'The Beetle', Korjaamo, IHME Contemporary Art Festival, Helsinki, Finland (2018); 'A Tree (Suspended)', Kunstverein Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany (2016); Institute Suisse, Paris, France (2015); 'A Forest Divided', Lunds Konsthall, Lund, Sweden (2011); 'Henrik Håkansson', Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art - MIMA, Middlesbrough, England (2009); 'Henrik Håkansson. Novelas de la selva', Tamayo Contemporary Art Museum, Mexico City, Mexico (2008); 'Aug.26,2003 - Aug.27,2003 (Vespa vulgaris)', CAG, Vancouver, Canada (2007); 'Three days of the condor', Kettles Yard, Cambridge, England (2007); 'A travers bois pour trouver la forêt', (with Allora-Calzadilla and Sergio Vega), Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France (2006); 'Henrik Håkansson', The Dunker Culture Centre, Helsingborg, Sweden (2004); 'An Introduction to the birds', De Appel, Amsterdam, Netherlands and The Netherlands Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden (2003); 'The Blackbird-Song for a New Breed', Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin, Germany (2001); 'Tomorrow and Tonight', Kunsthalle Basel, Basel, Switzerland (2001). He participated in biennials and international group exhibitions such as 11th Taipei Biennial, Taipei, Taiwan (2018); 19th Sydney Biennial, Sydney, Australia (2014); dOCUMENTA (13), Kassel, Germany (2012); Yokohama Triennale, Yokohama, Japan (2011); 8th Sharjah Biennial, Sharjah, UAE (2007); Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennial, Niigata, Japan (2006); 8th Lyon Biennial, Lyon, France (2005); 26th Sao Paulo Biennial, Sao Paulo, Brazil (2004); 50th Venice Biennial, Venice (2003); 47th Venice Biennial, Nordic Pavilion, Venice (1997).