

PRESS RELEASE

METTE TRONVOLL - SVALBARD

21 March – 27 April 2014

Reception Friday April 21, 7pm-9pm

Galleri K is pleased to present Mette Tronvoll's fourth solo exhibition at the gallery with photographic works from her latest series *Svalbard*.

Svalbard is the result of Tronvoll's two-year investigation into the renowned Arctic Archipelago situated midway between mainland Norway and the North Pole. Since its discovery Svalbard has appealed to hunters, fishers, explorers, adventurers, traders, coal mining companies and lately scientists and modern-day adventurers, the tourists. It is a place where global political, geographic and commercial interests meet, as well as a place where nature appears at its most extreme – simultaneously cruel and fragile, merciless and magnetic. It is a place of projections and fantasies, hopes and fears and not least a place where humankind meets nature in its most direct way.

Tronvoll's *Svalbard* series traces these different histories, characteristics and conflicts with the unsentimental sincerity characteristic of her work. Whether her photographs depict the relics of Arctic explorations and coal mining activities, scientists' daily investigations or "just" the sublime landscape – we are meeting Tronvoll's subjects with an immediacy that allows for a one-to-one encounter with the beholder. It is as if the artist's camera has ceased to exist to pave the way for a direct meeting with the subject matter, devoid of the barrier that is usually present between photographer/beholder and photographed subject.

This direct encounter becomes most visible in Tronvoll's works deriving from one particular place on Svalbard: the settlement of Ny-Ålesund, a former mining village that today houses international science stations researching subjects such as climate change, meteorology, the aurora borealis, deep sea currents or biological diversity. It is at this settlement that Tronvoll has managed to give the most honest and personal insight into contemporary life on Svalbard, without neglecting its fascinating aspects and projections, or its importance on a global scale.

Mette Tronvoll was born 1965 in Trondheim and lives in Oslo. Recent solo exhibitions took place at Brandts Museet for Fotokunst, Odense (2013), Haus am Waldsee, Berlin (2012), Landesgalerie am Oberösterreichische Landesmuseum, Linz (2012), Rogaland kunstmuseum, Stavanger (2011) and Bergen kunstmuseum, Bergen (2011). Participations in group exhibitions include *Kongelige portretter 1814 – 2014*, Haugar kunstmuseum, Tønsberg (2014), *Norsk 90-Tall*, Kaare Berntsen Contemporary, Oslo (2013), *Voies Off*, Arles (2012), *17th Biennale of Sydney*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney (2010) and *Goddesses*, Nasjonalmuseet for kunst, arkitektur og design, Oslo (2010). Tronvoll's work is represented in private and public collections including Bergen Kunstmuseum, Bergen, Stavanger Kunstmuseum, Stavanger, Landesgalerie am Oberösterreichischen Landesmuseum, Linz, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Nasjonalmuseet for kunst, arkitektur og design, Oslo, Neues Museum, Staatliches Museum für Kunst und Design in Nürnberg, Norsk Museum for Fotografi- Preus Fotomuseum, Horten, Statoil Hydro Collection, Stavanger, Stiftung Candida Höfer, Cologne, Sørlandets Kunstmuseum, Kristiansand, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York and Trondheim Kunstmuseum,.

Parallel to the exhibition at Galleri K, The National Gallery, Oslo shows Mette Tronvoll's portraits of H.M. Queen Sonja of Norway from 19 March until 16 May 2014.

The exhibition will be closed during Easter holiday from April 13 – April 21