

Ancient Wolf Ancestry - an exhibition for dogs

Being a companion for humans for millennia, and by far the oldest animal to be domesticated, dogs have played a vital role in our communities as hunters, bodyguards and friends. Over the millennia, as they have co-evolved with us, and we with them, we've become close to each other. We effortlessly play, cuddle, communicate and cooperate in all sorts of tasks. However, they are still wild animals - for a great part. And as much as they love sharing a walk in the park with us or whatever, whatever we like doing they would, equally happy, assist us havoc, vandalism and murder. ————— **An insane amount of** festivals, exhibitions events devoted to dogs are held all the time all over the globe. However, the greater part of these events empathize having the dog please humans in one way or the other. In my exhibition "Ancient Wolf Ancestry" I intent to celebrate another part of the dog - the part that is not for us. First; a short chapter on smell; The secret world and inner life of that is not for us is probably best epitomized in their legendary sense of smell. Here a rich realm of information and pleasure lies open to them down a path where we cannot follow, let alone see. But we can see their pleasure! What a raw, vulgar pleasure, and yet refined; Where they obviously don't discriminate between "disgusting" and "delicious" smells the way we do, between "good" and "bad" they do seem highly selective in their interest in different objects - through some mystic parametres of their own; So what are these parametres, what are they interested in? Attending a seminar at my art academy last month, **I had somewhat a revelation about that;** Being too late for the seminar, I snuck inside the crowded auditorium with as little disturbance of the assembly as possible. But it was hopeless; A little dog that one of my colleagues had brought with her into the auditorium, liberated itself from her arms, and crossed the room in a direct line over to my shoes and, in what seemed to be some kind of extacy, smelled my shoes for five full minutes. Then it looked up at me, smiled, and in a friendly and jovial way, sat down beside me - after a thorough smell at my shoes, the dog obviously felt it knew me better. I looked down at my shoes: They were nothing special really. But thinking about it, I had probably worn them some pretty unusual places, and certainly almost never washed them. I imagined how these semi worn shoes for this dog was a beautiful telltale catalogue of places where its never been and animals its never seen - washing them would have made them less disgusting - and definately also less interesting. To fully comprehend this juxtaposed priority that

dogs have compared to us, one maybe has to imagine a combination of the qualities of interesting and disgusting. **Disgustering** maybe? In my exhibition I display a range of "disgustering" relics collected from far and beyond. (Of course a lot of these relics communicate in smell frequencies that only my audience (dogs) - and not I - can judge - something along the lines of painting a series of pictures in the dark, and exhibiting them without ever being allowed to see them myself.) Following is a **sneak peak into some of the relics that the exhibition will contain.** Relic 1: Magic stick This piece of wood collected in a wild environment smeared in white tail deer remains will immediately awaken your hunting instincts and excitements. Relic 2: Shirt worn in 3 full weeks Through some kind of smell-borne empathy that humans cant comprehend, you can smell all the hopes and fears that I've had as i put up the exhibition Relic 3: Sandals from Azerbaijan You simultaneously sense all the places these sandals have visited, places that you will probably never see. The wanderlust of your wolf forefathers is awakened in you. —-/-/— **Ancient Wolf Ancestry is taking place on Fredens Eng, Christiania, open for human and canine visitors fri 7th - sat 8th of June 12:00-15:00. An exhibition by Carl Plum arranged by Det Kosmiske Hierarki.**