

ARTnews

The 5 Best Exhibitions at the 2023 Edition of Les Rencontres d'Arles, From a Focus on Nordic Women Photographers to Photo Albums of an Early Trans Community

“Insolare” at Cloître Saint-Trophisme



Eva Nielsen: *Lucite (They III)*, left, and *Insolare I*, right, both 2023.

Photo : Courtesy the artist and BMW ART MAKERS

The cloisters of Saint-Trophisme stand in the middle of Arles’s episcopal district. This is where Eva Nielsen and Marianne Derrien’s collaboration takes shape, as part of the BMW Art Makers program, which invites an artist and a curator to collaborate on an exhibition. Nielsen and Derrien met in their 20s, when Derrien was already studying art history and Nielsen was hoping to study at the École des Beaux-Arts de Paris, which she did eventually. The result of this long-standing friendship are 12 photographs combining topographic imagery, traditional paintings and silkscreen ones, each showcased on a self-supporting (and heritage-friendly) “module,” or structure. “We drove through shifting landscapes, where the sea and the land seem to merge,” Nielsen said of the Camargue region, which she did not expect to be as crowd-free as it was during the off-season. There, she zoomed into the cracks of the earth, both wet and dry, aiming to capture what often goes unseen. Back in her studio in Paris’s 13th arrondissement, Nielsen played with textures and layers, to offer a fragmented and blurry vision of the places she had visited with her partner in crime. The display is both poetic and hypnotic.